

Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

*** Happy New Year! ***

Why I
switched to
radio news, 3

Volume X, Number 1

January 1990

Newspaper deaths, births and marriages

Media ownership

In a year, two daily newspapers died (*Miami News*, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*); one was born (*St. Louis Sun*) and a pair were married (*The Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* were approved for a joint operating agreement by the U.S. government. This allowed independent news staffs but a merger of the non-newsroom departments such as advertising and

circulation). . . . The *New York Post* began publishing a Sunday edition but folded it in a matter of months. . . . The Oakland (Calif.) *Tribune*, the only metropolitan daily that is independent and black-owned, endures Money-losing United Press International continued to suffer. One press account noted with it lost \$16 million and was forced to cut 40 jobs. . . . Ms. magazine suspended publication after nearly 20 years, and it was unclear if it will return next year or it has perished. Marcia Gillespie, an African-American, was the magazine's executive editor. *Emerge* magazine emerged last fall after a one-year delay. The new magazine edited by Wilmer C. Ames Jr. is targeted to the black middle class. . . . Corporate giants Warner Communications and Paramount had a bitter fight in its quest to merge with Time, Inc. (*Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Money*, *People*, *HBO*). Warner won and the \$14-billion deal created the world's largest communications concern. . . . fewer large daily newspapers changed hands in the last year compared to the last five years of the '80s. One other them, *The New Haven Register*, was sold for \$275 million. . . . Black Entertainment Television (BET) continues to grow. In five years it has grown from 10 million viewers to 25 million viewers. Owner Robert Johnson kept a promise and has expanded

news and public affairs programming. The *New York Times*' NYT Cable in New Jersey was sold to a group of investors that included black entrepreneur Bruce Llewellyn. . . .

National, International

An all-black team of veteran journalists at ABC

1989: Year in review

produced the hour-long special "Black in White America" in late summer. Critics' reviews were mixed. . . . The National Association of Black Journalists had its biggest convention ever in New York City. About 2,000 people participated. . . . the book *Unholy Alliances* by Anna Sims Phillips and Mike Taibbi examined the Tawana Brawley case and the deceit, exploitation and demagoguery that shrouded it. . . . The status of newsroom diversity: 7.5 percent of the workforce was made up of African-American, Hispanic and Asian-American journalists. About 12 percent of journalism graduates hired in 1988 were from minority groups. After much debate, the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which does this annual census, voted to identify newspapers with poor records for hiring journalists of color. . . . Controversial clergyman

the Rev. George Stallings, who initiated a breakaway movement from the Catholic church, was the subject of a *Washington Post* story in which an unnamed subject claimed the clergyman engaged in deviant sexual behavior a few years ago. The form of attribution was roundly criticized by Stallings and black journalists. . . . San Francisco State University established an institute dedicated to widening racial and cultural diversity in journalism. "We're trying to find a way for all mainstream journalism education programs to be integrated," explained Betty Medsger, chairwoman of the journalism department. "Right now, the population of minority journalism students is even lower than minorities in the newsroom." . . . **Kwame Karkari**, a journalist in Ghana who was jailed without charge for about 1 1/2 years for criticizing the government, was released from custody after intense lobbying from abroad. Karkari a Columbia University J-school graduate, was released Dec. 29, 1988. . . . **Dorothy Gilliam** (*Washington Post*) and **Ethel Payne** (*Chicago Defender*), were among a dozen journalists who covered the civil rights movement who met in Atlanta during the MLK Jr. national holiday to tell what it was like then and assess what had been

Continued on back page

To our readers

Effective next month, the annual subscription rate for the *Black Alumni Network* newsletter increases to \$20.

A two-year subscription rate is available for \$38.

We were compelled to increase subscription rates for two reasons.

Production and operating costs have risen steadily.

Furthermore, we're committed to producing a newsy, high-quality, publication for you and we need adequate revenues to do the job.

This is only the second rate hike in 9 1/2 years of publishing B.A.N.

We intend to grow and we hope you'll grow with us.

Thank you for your support.

Stephen Gayle scholarship award winners

Two women who are pursuing journalism careers at colleges in New York State were each winners of \$1,500

scholarships awarded in memory of the late Stephen H. Gayle, a 1972 Columbia J-school graduate.

The winners were Connie T. Aitchison, a junior at Fordham University and Cassandra Worrell, a sophomore at the State

University of New York at Albany.

The awards were presented last month at the third annual New York Association of Black Journalists awards and scholarship program.

Gayle, 34, died suddenly in 1982. At the time he had

been appointed managing editor of *Black Enterprise* magazine. He had also worked as a correspondent and deputy bureau chief for *Newsweek* in San Francisco and as a reporter for the *New York Post*.

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

Seeks a faculty member at the Assistant Professor level with teaching and professional expertise in public relations. Program courses include introductory public relations-advertising and specialized advanced classes in some combination of copywriting, internal publications, public relations case studies, research, and supervision of interns.

Applicants should possess three to five years agency, public information or client consulting experience, with prior teaching at the College or University level. Ability to also teach newspaper reporting and editing would be an asset. Ph.D. strongly preferred; A.B.D. or master's degree with significant professional experience will be considered, although appointment may be at a lower rank. Salary based upon experience and qualifications, with excellent fringe benefits.

Appointment begins with Fall 1990 semester, contingent upon approval and funding by the State University of New York. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Feb. 15, or until position is filled. Send application letter, resume and the names of three references to: Dr. W. Richard Whitaker, Chairman, Department of Communication, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, Buffalo State College particularly encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University invites applications and nominations for teaching positions in print and broadcast journalism for the 1990-91 academic year. These one-year renewable and tenure-track positions will be filled from the ranks of distinguished professionals with an interest in teaching and research. The School is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and especially encourages applications from minorities and women. Send letter, vita and three reference letters to:

Committee on Faculty Appointments
Graduate School of Journalism
Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027

Required Reading

For college
journalism departments

Virginia Union
Hampton
NC A&T
Johnson C. Smith
S. Illinois
E. Illinois
U. Kentucky
U. Wisconsin
Glassboro State
Columbia GSJ
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Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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News radio: Avid listener becomes a correspondent

By Cheryl Devall

It's around 4 p.m. on a Saturday, and I've just wrapped up production on a piece about homeless people at O'Hare Airport for our Sunday morning show *Weekend Edition*. For the first time since I came to National Public Radio, the editor couldn't find a thing to change . . . and it feels like a triumph. Perhaps that's an indication that, after seven years as a daily newspaper reporter, I'm beginning to grasp the art of writing for radio.

One year ago I left the city hall beat at the *Chicago Tribune* to cover the Midwest from National Public Radio's Chicago bureau. At the time I switched, I barely knew how to hold the microphone correctly. The only radio work I'd done was in Joyce (Shelby) Young's class in J-school, and my scripts then were prone to what she derisively called "print attacks."

Radio style is more conversational, more immediate and more descriptive than my newspaper prose has been.

NPR's knack for balancing comprehensiveness and clarity with detail and depth won me over as a listener several years ago, and eventually challenged me to try radio journalism for myself.

The transition from print has been gradual; in fact, it's continuing. Most of us, even my seasoned colleagues in radio, *hate* the sound of our own voices on tape. My own is complicated by a lisp and a degree of "mike shyness" that took sessions with a voice coach to improve. The hardest part of the job has been learning to relax, to sound authoritative, to convince myself that people really want to hear what I'm talking about. And, to expect and prepare for technical difficulties. Fortunately, on stories ranging from the fiscal crisis in East St. Louis, Ill., to Chicago public school reform, to

Datelines Chicago

NPR's knack for balancing comprehensiveness and clarity with detail and depth won me over as a listener several years ago, and eventually challenged me to try radio journalism for myself.

the mayoral election in Cleveland, little has gone terribly wrong. When it does, I've learned to try something else and tell myself that there's no use in panicking.

In broadcasting, what's over is over. Thanks to Flawn Williams, our bureau's meticulous engineer, I'm learning much of what I need to know on the job. Each reporter gathers her own interviews and sound on cassette, then transfers cuts to reel-to-reel tape for editing (no carts here; they diminish the sound quality). We cut tape the old-fashioned way with single-edged razor blades, and we write and deliver our own scripts.

Everything we do is auditioned over the phone by an editor in Washington, then fed over a broadcast-quality fiber optic link to our D.C. headquarters for broadcast on *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and on the weekend versions of those programs.

Compared to the networks, and to most newspapers where I've worked, NPR is a small operation. About 200 people -- most in D.C. -- work for the News and Information division. The Chicago bureau consists of two full-time reporters, an engineer and assorted free-lancers. The network also maintains domestic bureaus in New York and Los Angeles (only the New York bureau has a receptionist) and correspondents in Austin, Salt Lake City, Seattle, London,

Jerusalem, Johannesburg and Mexico City.

I like the small scale and relative informality of bureau life. My editors

are 1,500 miles away, reachable only by phone, fax or computer mail. But we don't work any less hard because of that.

One reason I became a reporter is that I believe information empowers people. Public radio has, so far, allowed me plenty of latitude to learn and to convey information on a broad variety of subjects, and with a degree of creativity I had never employed in print.

Continued on next page

Anchorage Daily News Internships

With long sun-filled days and warm, not hot, temperatures, summer in Alaska can be great.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Daily News is looking for summer interns.

• **REPORTER:** Interns are looked upon as general assignment reporters. We encourage interns to work to the level of their talent and experience, and expect them to leave with a portfolio that is more readable and interesting than the ones they came to us with. During the summer of 1990 we expect to have reporter interns assigned to the local news and features departments.

Pay is \$8.50 per hour, full-time for approximately a 12-week period. Reliable transportation is needed. Starting and ending dates are flexible.

DEADLINE: We need to have your resume, letter of application and at least a half dozen samples of your work in hand by Feb. 1. For more information: Rosemary Shinohara, (907) 257-4309.

P.O. Box 14-9001
Anchorage, AK 99514-9001

News radio

Con't from previous page

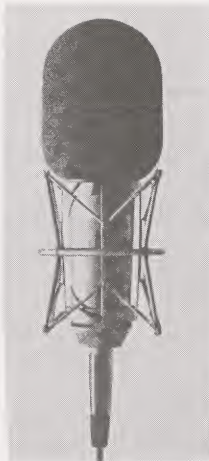
If I could change anything about the medium, it would be our level of recognition in communities of color. NPR's audience is primarily white and college-educated, and the African-Americans on staff talk often among ourselves about ways to reach new listeners.

Despite almost 20 years of daily and documentary reporting on Africa and Central America and the domestic issues affecting us -- few of the "folks" I interview have ever heard of us. (It's particularly ironic because many of NPR's 377 member stations also program the only jazz radio in their markets -- and *I know* we listen to the music!)

Our news format is different. Individual pieces and commentaries average three to five minutes and often run longer. We use a lot of natural sound to convey the atmosphere of a place, and as Adam C. Powell III, head of News and Information, likes to boast, this can create the best pictures on anybody's air.

Most stations that carry NPR programs can be found at or below 92 on the FM dial. I invite you to check out your local affiliate. If you like us, tell your friends. It would cheer me to know I'm talking with brothers and sisters.

The writer is a 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate.



Our news format is different. Individual pieces and commentaries average three to five minutes and often run longer. We use a lot of natural sound to convey the atmosphere of a place.

Knight-Bagehot seeks applicants

The Knight-Bagehot Fellowship program in economics and business journalism is accepting applications.

The program at Columbia University is an intensive, extensive and sharply focused study experience. Required: Thirty hours of university credits during two semesters.

The course work is supplemented by seminars

and meetings organized for the fellows. Fellows meet prominent guests in economics, business and academia.

The application deadline is April 1.

Minimum four years professional journalism experience required.

Contact Pamela Hollie Kluge, director, at the Graduate School of Journalism, New York, N.Y. 10027.

Or call (212) 854-2711.

The Dick Goldensohn Fund GRANTS TO JOURNALISTS

The Dick Goldensohn Fund is accepting applications for 1990 grants. The Fund annually awards several grants to publications, reporters, editors, free-lance writers or others working on innovative journalistic projects. The Fund's goal is to foster journalistic undertakings that investigate abuses of the public trust, spotlight overlooked aspects of contemporary life, or promote social, political and economic justice.

Application deadline is FEB. 1.
175 Fifth Ave., Suite 2245
NYC 10010 (212) 362-1161

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

invites applications for:

The John S. Knight Fellowships for Professional Journalists, 1990-91

A journalism fellowship is a sabbatical from deadlines, an escape from the newsroom. But it's far more -- it can be the most stimulating year of your life.

Each year, 12 professionals from print and broadcast journalism are awarded Knight Fellowships. They pursue an academic year of study, intellectual growth, and personal change at one of the world's great universities.

Knight Fellows go on to great things in journalism. Among their many prestigious awards are ten Pulitzer Prizes.

Candidates must have seven years professional experience. Fellows receive a stipend of \$30,000, plus tuition and book allowance.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Feb. 1.
Call: (415) 723-4937. Dept. of Communication, Stanford, CA 94305

Jobline

The Dallas Morning News has openings for **travel editor and arts editor** in its features department. Contact Ellen Kampinski, assistant managing editor/lifestyles, at the newspaper, Communications Center, Dallas, Tx. 75265. . . . The Camden/Cherry Hill, N.J. Courier-Post has an opening for a **business writer**. Contact James Walsh, business editor, at the newspaper, 301 Cuthbert Blvd., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08002. . . . The St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch has these openings: **Features editor** (must have significant management experience to lead a 34-person department in the creation of 11 full-color-front weekly sections); **features section editor** (minimum two years assignment editing and writing experience). Contact Ken Doctor, associate editor/features, at the newspaper, 345 Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn. 55101. The Pioneer Press Dispatch is also looking for a **sports reporter** for backup college and professional sports beats. Minimum two years experience on a metro daily. Contact Roy Hewitt, executive sports editor. . . . Dow Jones Professional Investor Report, a New York City-based newsletter that tracks activity in the stock market, is accepting resumes for periodic

openings for **reporters and editors**. Generally two years of reporting experience is required, with a demonstrated interest in business and financial topics preferred. Salary is competitive. Contact: Timothy M. Andrews, managing editor, 200 Liberty St., 12th floor, New York, N.Y. 10281, or call 212-416-2460.

B.A.N. People

Lena Vanier, '88, is an associate editor for *Facilities, Design and Management* magazine, owned by Gralla Publications in New York. She was formerly a reporter at *International Thomson Retail Press*. . . . We heard from **Jennifer Ffrench, '87**. She's a business reporter in Gastonia, N.C., bureau of *The Charlotte Observer*. Before that she worked a couple years at the *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown, N.Y. . . . **Addie Rimmer, '78**, who is teaching journalism this fall at the University of Arizona, will be directing the Editing Program for Minority Journalists, run by the Institute for Journalism Education. The 10-year-old program is a crash course for training copy editors for daily newspaper work. The program did not have a class last summer, but will resume next summer with a new benefit: A master's degree program is to be offered as an option

S. African seeks U.S. ties to launch anti-apartheid newspaper

DETROIT -- A South African journalist, as part of a drive to launch an anti-apartheid newspaper, urged black journalists here to "dip into (your) pockets" or "give sweat equity" to aid the struggle against apartheid.

"I think it's important for NABJ to be involved in the struggle for human rights," in South Africa, Dr. Taj Hargey, executive editor of *The Forum*, told Detroit chapter members recently.

The Forum would be the first multiracial newsweekly in South Africa, he said. It would also be non-sectarian, meaning it would not follow any one political or religious doctrine, Hargey said.

Apartheid is the South African system that denies the country's black majority political rights and certain economic opportunities.

Hargey, who is "colored" by South Africa's racial definitions, came to the United States this summer to raise money and obtain equipment for the project and make political and professional contacts. He asked DC-NABJ members to consider working in Cape Town for several weeks to help launch the

project, or to become a correspondent.

He said the paper is not aligning itself with any political party because to do so might jeopardize attempts to gain a publishing license. He said blacks comprise the bulk of the staff.

Hargey said Sun Microsystems in California donated \$16,000 worth of computers to *The Forum*. He hopes to launch the paper by April.

Hargey can be contacted through the non-profit Institute of Technology Development (Technical), 3254 Adeline Ave., Berkeley, Calif. 94703. **From the DC-NABJ Newsletter.**

Budget Update

Balance before	
July 1989 issue: \$	826
Revenues	
6/15/89 to	
12/15/89:	1,072
Subtotal	1,898
Expenditures	
July to Dec.	
newsletters:	1,509
Balance (Before	
January issue)	\$ 389
300 to 500 newsletters	
circulated monthly	

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Year in review Continued

accomplished two decades later. . . . NABJ participated in its first international conference, meeting last month with journalists from two organizations in the Caribbean, including the Press Association of Jamaica. . . . Last September The New York *Amsterdam News* ended a streak of 191 weeks of editorials demanding the resignation of mayor Edward I. Koch. Koch was defeated in the Democratic by David Dinkins, the eventual mayor-elect and the first African-American to lead the city. . . . Black publishers from the National Newspaper Publishers Association complained about comments and business practices of Japanese companies. "Look, we don't have to import racism -- we've got enough of it here already," said a publisher from Riverside, Calif. Complaints ranged from the sale of black Sambo-like dolls to a comment from the former Japanese finance ministers that blacks saw nothing wrong with running up credit card debt then defaulting. . . .

Howard University began a newspaper advertising sales program. . . .

People

About a year ago a crusade began to pressure the syndicates to attract black cartoonists because of the embarrassing absence of African-American images on newspaper comics pages. **Ray Billingsley's** "Curtis" (King Features) is now syndicated in at least 100 daily newspapers. Other new artists are **Robb Armstrong** with "Jumpstart" and **Stephen Bentley**, creator of "Herb and Jaamal" (Tribune Media Services) . . .

Promotions: **John E. Hall** to assistant managing editor/graphics at the *Dallas Times Herald*, from *The Portland Oregonian*; New York *Timesman* **Paul Delaney** to senior editor from correspondent in Madrid; **Lee Ivory** to editor of Gannett News Service; **James Crutchfield** to managing editor of the *Akron Beacon Journal* from the *Detroit Free Press*; **W. Curtis Riddle**, publisher of the *Journal Courier* in Lafayette, Ind., added the title of regional vice president for Gannett

Co.; **Walterene Swanston** to director of minority affairs for the ANPA Foundation; **Jeff Rivers** to associate editor of *The Hartford Courant*; **Chet Fuller** to assistant managing editor/administration at the *Atlanta Constitution & Journal*; **Milton Coleman**, a *Washington Post* editor, was elected to the American Press Institute (API) board of governors; **Thomas Greer** to executive editor of *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, from managing editor;

Zenger award; columnist **Clarence Page** of *The Chicago Tribune* won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for commentary. . . .

Deaths: **Herb Denton, 45**, *Washington Post* Canada correspondent and a former editor; **Max Robinson, 49**, the nation's first African-American network anchorman, in Dec. 1988; **Al Dunmore, 73**, a reporter for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Michigan Chronicle* and *Philadelphia Independent*.

Jerry Gray to Associated Press Newark bureau chief from Nairobi correspondent; **Gerald Boyd** of *The New York Times* to special assistant to the managing editor, from Washington correspondent . . .

Honors: Cable News Network (CNN) anchorman **Bernard Shaw** was the National Association of Black Journalists' 'Journalist of the Year'; **Albert Fitzpatrick** of Knight-Ridder, Inc., was winner of the Ida B. Wells award for exemplary leadership in moving the news media toward racial and cultural diversity; *Ebony's* Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Moneta Sleet** was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame; *Oakland Tribune* editor & publisher **Bob Maynard** was the 35th winner of John Peter

DEAR READER:

Your subscription renewal date now appears in the right corner of your mailing sticker (i.e., a 12.89, renewal date is December 1989. Thanks for remitting promptly.

Black Alumni Network

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Tourism: A nation's blessing and curse

By **Earlene McMichael**

Posters of women's bare buttocks in various hues and wet t-shirts clinging to heavy breasts are often the images we see promoting Jamaica in the United States.

These images,

Commentary

presumably put out by Jamaica's tourism industry, would have us believe no problems exist in that Caribbean country and that its women are well-endowed sexual beasts.

In December, I was among more than 60 African-American journalists attending the first international conference of Caribbean, African and North American journalists in Kingston, Jamaica.

It was sponsored by the National Association of

Black Journalists, the Press Association of Jamaica and the Caribbean Media Workers Association.

I SAW how dependent Jamaica was on tourism and the unfortunate effects the industry can have.

I knew this island was beautiful as soon as Air Jamaica Flight 010 touched down in Kingston that Wednesday, Dec. 6. I could breathe. The air wasn't that humid, choking sort and the wind blew gently and steadily, keeping the temperature comfortable.

But then, once in the airport terminal, we were surrounded by slim men with caps, white shirts and dark pants with

'To know your money isn't worth much and that your government insists you be civil to strangers, wouldn't you stare?'

splashes of red at their waists. They were the military. We found them all over as our rented bus looped through the city to our hotel.

During the conference opening, Prime Minister Michael Manley explained that Jamaica has a large foreign debt and depends on tourism. He has taken steps to protect the industry.

This has included curbing

the "harassment" of tourists by having a military presence and posting roadside billboards reminding locals that tourism is their business.

Soon after arriving at the hotel, I went into town with a fellow journalist to get food. Though I thought we looked like locals -- we are black -- the locals let us know we were not "them."

My friend wondered how they knew and, why they stared.

At the time, the U.S. dollar was worth \$6.31 in Jamaican money. To know your money isn't worth much and that your government insists you be civil to strangers, why wouldn't you stare? In their eyes, I'm sure, we were not black. We were tourists.

Why they might resent people who they must feel are raping their homeland by using it as some sort of country club is understandable.

Two examples flash in my mind. They occurred in Ocho Rios, the resort area many conferences went when the conference concluded.

On our way back from beef patties at *Mother's*, a fast-food restaurant in town, I noticed two, white half moons across the

W. African island proposed site for '91 journalists conference

About 250 people attended the first international conference of Caribbean, African and North American journalists of color Dec. 6-9 in Kingston, Jamaica.

The session concluded with its sponsors, NABJ, the Press Association of Jamaica and the Caribbean Media Workers Association, taking the conference theme -- "A Time for Dialogue" -- one step further.

They agreed to form a confederation of groups representing black

journalists, to share their newsletters and to intervene when journalists traveling in their countries encounter trouble.

The groups also agreed to meet several days before NABJ's national convention this August in Los Angeles to plan a second international conference in 1991.

Goree Island, Senegal, reportedly the last stop on the African continent for slaves headed to the Americas, was a suggested site.

-- **Earlene McMichael**

**Arts &
Culture
New York
scene
beyond
Manhattan**
(Datelines, page 2)

Con't on back page

Covering the arts in the 'other' New York

By **Esther Iverem**

In one week I interviewed and profiled a photographer and sculptor, saw an off-off Broadway play based on the Brooklyn murder of Yusuf Hawkins, wrote two briefs, interviewed the founders of five black-owned art galleries, reviewed a concert by Sweet Honey in the Rock and interviewed Bernice Johnson, Sweet Honey's director, for a monthly column.

It is supposed to be in between the busy fall and spring performance seasons. But somehow, as a reporter covering arts and culture for *New York Newday*, I find myself as busy as ever trying to keep up with the bustle of the arts scene in this city's many neighborhoods.

I don't cover Broadway. I don't cover The Met.

And lawd knows I don't cover Lincoln Center or the trendoid arts stories that this city's journalism pack tramples toward en masse.

I have a weekly page, "Arts in the Boroughs," dedicated to the local arts scene, particularly in the four boroughs other than Manhattan. I cover artists of all stripes, arts organizations, arts issues, performances, exhibits.

Datelines Rego Park, N.Y.

What a crazy job, I wonder sometimes.

Then I realize that, for now, I don't want to do anything else for a paycheck.

I usually write the main story for the page and a column of news items. In addition to the page, I write about upcoming events for the *Weekend* section, write a monthly column for our Sunday Queens section and enterprise stories.

My favorites from last year include a lengthy piece on why the Calypso music industry is based in Brooklyn.

Another was about this wonderfully strange woman who is devoted to promoting tombstones as a form of folk art.

It occurs to me at times that this job can only exist in this city, the

nation's arts capital, where there are thousands of emerging, talented artists, dancers, actors, musicians, and museums, community theaters and arts centers.

It also occurs to me that of the major daily newspapers, only *New York Newday* would include community arts as an integral part of its coverage. Arts coverage in the *New York Daily News* and *New York Post* is scanty, with no attempt at comprehensiveness. *The New York Times* tends toward elitism, swimming only after the biggest fish in town and then looks outside rather than inside the city to round out its coverage.

While some city residents look only toward Manhattan for culture and arts, many do not. Most people cannot afford Broadway or events at major institutions, or they simply don't care to make the trip, for example from St. Albans, N.Y. (Queens) to Manhattan's crime-ridden Times Square theater district.

New York Newday's commitment to community arts hits our readers where they live. In seven years of its existence, the newspaper has grown to a circulation of 230,000, making the combined circulation with our

CHAIR

Department of Communication
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts
Wayne State University

Description: The chair of the Department of Communication at Wayne State University is responsible for providing academic leadership for the faculty and overseeing all curriculum, personnel and budgetary matters. The department offers undergraduate programs in speech communication, radio-tv-film, and journalism and M.A. and Ph.D. programs.

Qualifications: Candidates should have an earned doctorate with extensive academic experience. They should possess credentials meriting appointment at the rank of associate professor or professor. Extensive experience in administering academic programs is preferred. Candidates must also present a record of publication related to their program of research and/or a significant professional record.

Wayne State University is a large urban university with a culturally diverse student population and an enrollment of about 30,000. The Department of Communication has 20 full-time faculty members and undergraduate enrollment of 650 majors and a graduate enrollment of about 150 students.

To apply: Send a letter of application and curriculum vitae with three letters of recommendation to:

Professor Richard Bilalitis, chair, search committee
College of Fine, Performing and Communication arts
5104 Gullen Mall, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. 48202

Anticipated starting date: August 1990. Application deadline: March 30.

Wayne State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Betty Winston Baye
Senior Editor

Daniel Holly
Esther Iverem
Michelle Johnson
Lisa R. Rhodes

Contributing Editors

Published Monthly.
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Long Island parent paper 730,000. Most of our New York readers live in Brooklyn and Queens, the two most populous boroughs.

With increased geographic diversity in our coverage, I think we also increase cultural diversity in our pages as well. The farther you get from the seemingly yuppie uniformity of Manhattan, the city's melting pot becomes more apparent. More than 100 languages are spoken in Queens.

Blacks, Latinos and Asians now comprise more than half the city's 7 million residents but their cultures are not represented proportionately in the city's newspapers. Covering grass roots arts on the comparatively limited basis that I do does not fill the void but it can begin to peck away at the haughty Eurocentrism that characterizes most arts coverage.

Not long ago, I sat at a concert of traditional Chinese music played on beautifully hand-carved instruments. Afterward, I learned that many of the musicians in the group were nationally known in China before immigrating to this country, where only one of the group has been able to continue working professionally.

So because they cannot command union-scale salaries, these musicians are stripped of their "professional" status. Newspapers can marginalize them as "community artists" and editors can dismiss them with talk of how they must instead cover the most intelligent and lively (read European) arts.

Personally, I find the work can be enlightening and even inspiring because there is no longer a gulf between my personal interests and my job. I have been a reporter at *New York Newsday*, covering this beat for about a year and a half but I have covered it full-time for only four months. Before this, I worked a series of general assignments, cops or government beats at *The New York Times* and the *Wilmington (Del.) News-Journal*.

I am a journalist who still writes poetry and fiction so I value what I learn about the creative process from the people I meet. I am not interested in reporting the murder of the day that only leads to the next murder. Nor do I want to spend time developing a beat in which I have no personal interest.

Covering grass roots arts on a limited basis does not fill the void but it can peck away at the haughty Eurocentrism that characterizes most arts coverage.

I have also learned a lot about the commitment, discipline and hard work required of those who want to reach their potential.

I say this specifically to all of you who dream of telling your editor to

shove it and run off to write your epic novel.

For creative people, it often means doing without many of the creature comforts that we slaves to the corporate paycheck take for granted.

I think Gregory Hines said it best at a lecture to students last year. "You have to make sacrifices," he said.

"You have to decide whether you want to be an artist or whether you want to have a dental plan."

The writer is a 1983 Columbia J-school graduate.

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Participation in the 1990 EPMJ is open to **Latino, African-American, Asian-American and Native American** men and women with at least one year of print media experience. Newspaper editors are encouraged to sponsor candidates from their newsrooms.

Application Deadline: March 1, 1990

The Editing Program has trained 90 copy and assignment editors since 1979. It is operated by The Institute for Journalism Education, a non-profit corporation committed to fostering racial diversity in the newspaper industry through its advanced training programs.

To obtain a program brochure and application form, please write or call:



Denise Holt Williams, Director of Programs
The Institute for Journalism Education
University of California
Graduate School of Journalism
B-28 North Gate Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
(415) 642-8287

Past crusades must be linked to today's events

By Henry Hampton

At the time we were enjoying the extraordinary positive response to the first series of *EYES ON THE PRIZE*, there were those who cautioned us about continuing the story.

These voices warned of the difficulty of telling the turbulent history of the late '60s and '70s.

But there was little choice for us for these reasons:

- *Half a history:* *EYES I* told only half a story and half the history. The power of history is to serve as a "connector" between then and now. If we did not tell of those years neither young people who never knew nor those who never understood the events and crises of the time would ever be able to make sense of how we got where we are today. We have to connect the times of Rosa Parks and marches on Washington to today's events.

- *Historical vocabulary:* One of our critical racial problems in America is the lack of a common historical vocabulary. African-Americans and white Americans often fail to communicate because they share different icons, mythologies and memories.

For example, for something as basic as community security enforced by police, we all too often struggle about their role in the midst of dangerous and sometimes out of control criminality.

The reality is that our feelings about many of these issues were defined by the history of the late '60s and early '70s. By revisiting these years we can hopefully free us all to begin to share a newer, more honest dialogue about the future of our communities.

- *Morale and spirit:* One of the clear lessons of these years is the energy and intensity of those who tried to change the nation. One could disagree about the courses some chose, but watching the destruction of many of our inner cities today and the death of our young, we might wish for the same level of caring and involvement shown in earlier years. If we know it, we can help find the energy without some of the baggage.

- *Lessons for democracy:* Too many Americans have a very narrow view of Civil Rights activity, seeing it as only important to black Americans.

But the impact of this movement is now being felt throughout the world.

Watch the pictures of Eastern Europe and China and hear the anthem "We shall overcome" linger in the background. Watch South Africa and the Soviet Union and you will come to understand that they are in the first stage of their revolutions.

In all likelihood, these nations are about to enter times of events similar to those that occupied America in the years 1965 to 1985. These years offer

a primer for what happens to people after they have pushed off the burdens of an oppressive system.

EYES ON THE PRIZE II is the story of our nation at a time when it was coming to grips with the realities of its democracy and its racial future. It still has a choice to make and it needs history to make it wisely.

EYES ON THE PRIZE II, an eight-part series premiered last month on PBS. The writer is executive producer of the series.

The Institute for Journalism Education

invites applications for its

Management Training Center

July 29 - September 23, 1990

Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill.

IJE will award up to 20 professional fellowships to the Management Training Center in its sixth year at Northwestern University. The center's goal is to train newspaper managers who will be prepared to operate effectively and creatively in a multicultural work force and marketplace.

During the eight-week program, participants are given an in-depth look at financial management, capital budgeting, leadership styles, business decisions and operations, business ethics and organizational behavior.

Applications are encouraged from professionals in the middle-management ranks of all operating departments of newspapers. **Applicants must have the written endorsements of their employers.**

Application Deadline: April 16, 1990

The Management Training Center is operated by The Institute for Journalism Education in cooperation with Northwestern's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and The Medill School of Journalism. IJE is a non-profit corporation committed to fostering racial diversity in the newspaper industry through its advanced training programs.

For a program brochure and application form, please write or call:

Denise Holt Williams, Director of Programs
The Institute for Journalism Education
University of California
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(415) 642-8287



Jobline

WBGU-TV (Bowling Green State University, Ohio) is

looking for a **television public affairs producer/host**. The person researches, writes,

produces, edits and hosts regional and local public affairs projects. Position also requires some training and supervision of students. Minimum two years experience in public affairs. The position is available in March and the deadline for applications is **Feb. 9**. Send letter of application, resume, three letters of reference, an official college transcript and 3/4" videotape sampler of public affairs work (if available) to Annmarie Heldt, director, administrative staff services, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43403. ... National Public Radio (NPR) has these openings: **Senior editor**, national desk, **director, promotion and public affairs**, and part-time **associate editor**, *Weekend Edition*. Submit resumes to NPR, Personnel, 2025 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. ...

weekly Crain business magazine. He covers corporate finance. ... **Maria E. Odum, '89**, is a reporter at the *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*. ... **Anthony Chapelle, '84**, is an associate producer for CNN Business news for nearly a year. He began writing stocks and bonds updates, now works with a program that does profiles of chief executives, i.e. Donald Trump, Leonard Stern (Hartz Mountain) and John Fairchild (WWD). ... **Ron Howell, '75**, was a panelist for the "Drugs and Society" forum at the Jamaica conference of NABJ, PAJ and CMW. According to an NABJ *Journal* account, the session became hot when the *Newsday* reporter brought up the "Jamaican file" that police in the United States had kept. Caribbean journalists at the conference said that when U.S. journalists copy the loose jargon of police, i.e. identifying drug suspects as members of "Jamaican posses," they smear an entire nation. Last year Howell broke the story of the Manhattan D.A.'s office using the extraordinary practice of keeping an 800-page file on Jamaicans who were arrested for any reason. ... **Correction: Allyson Moore-Bullock, '87**, of the *New Jersey Law Journal* was formerly a staff writer at *The Bergen Record* (B.A.N. 12/89).

Letter: '60s and '70s activists subject of documentary on Japan public television

I just finished a gigantic three-month project and was going through accumulated stuff when I stumbled across my October B.A.N. newsletter and your thoughtfully handwritten renewal reminder. Sorry! Here's my check.

As the outgoing treasurer for my chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association, I look to B.A.N. for news about old friends, tidbits, trends and tips on how to plan AAJA's first-ever East Coast convention in August, at which we hope to have some joint NABJ (National Association of Black Journalists) and NAHJ (National Association of Hispanic Journalists) events.

Of interest might be a black gospel show I field produced and production-managed featuring the Angelic Voices for Christ choir of Jamaica, N.Y. for Japanese broadcast in advance of its Japan tour.

This last project was a documentary about FBI surveillance/immigration harassment of John and Yoko Lennon for NHK, Japan Public

Broadcasting. I was researcher, field producer, production manager and interpreter.

I met and interviewed some great figures of the '60s and '70s, including Bobby Seale, John Sinclair (White Panthers founder), et al. What a high!

Knowing of B.A.N.'s limited resources, would someone consider compiling (from the mailing list) a membership directory? Maybe distribute it among members at nominal cost. This would enable us to exchange resources and have in hand a list of potential hires for future projects.

Also New York Women in Film (I'm on the admission's committee) is seeking to add some long-needed color to its membership.

Anyone with five year's experience above entry level in film or tape is welcome. Please contact me.

Shirley Kwan Kisaichi, J-'82
Brooklyn, N.Y.

B.A.N. People

Gayle Taylor, '86, is now a reporter in the Wallingford, Conn., bureau of the *New Haven Register*, from the *Worcester Telegram*. ... **Leonard Hollie, '89**, is a business writer at *Investment Age*, a bi-

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Required reading

For college journalism departments:

Virginia Union, Hampton, S. Illinois, E. Illinois, U. Kentucky, U. Wisconsin, Glassboro State, Columbia GSJ and others. Call or write to subscribe.

\$7.5M to track news employment trends

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund awarded journalism professor Lee B. Becker of Ohio State University a \$7,500 grant for two research projects.

Part of the grant, \$5,000, is for continued support by the Fund of a national survey of graduates of journalism and mass communications programs that Becker conducts each year. The Fund initiated the project to learn about employment projects and salaries for the graduates and has continued to

support it since it was transferred to Ohio State in 1987.

The remaining money will be used for a national survey of newspaper editors to learn about their hiring practices. The fund conducted a similar survey five years ago.

The Princeton, N.J.-based Dow Jones Newspaper Fund is a non-profit foundation supported by Dow Jones and Company, Inc. and other newspaper companies in cities where Newspaper Fund programs and internships are located. Dow Jones publishes *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications.

Jamaica

Can't from front page

street. They weren't the kind you see in the sky.

There was this white woman and her male companion -- clearly tourists. A substantial part of the woman's rear end was poking out of her hot pants. At one point, she bent over a water fountain for a sip, either unaware or not caring that her outfit was better suited for a beach. Would she have worn that in her hometown?

THEN while others in my party were on the beach off the hotel they overheard two white men haggling over how much to pay an island girl they had hired.

Earlier, the girl, whom they had for three days, massaged suntan lotion on their backs. I was disgusted to learn this.

I later observed this child with midnight skin and lovely braids wading in the hotel pool. She was playing with a little boy. She tossed him a ball. He tossed it back. And so forth. The scene was so fitting; she looked no older than 13 years old.

Tourism can be a Third World country's blessing and nightmare at the same time. But unfortunately this story can be told about most any Caribbean island, including St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands where my mother was born.

The writer is a 1987 Columbia J-school graduate.

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Minority applications to J-school on the rise

By Wayne J. Dawkins

The number of applications for the upcoming class of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism is up slightly compared to last year and the number of minority applicants also rose according to a school official.

Minority applications as of early February totaled 153, up from 109 last year. Seventy-two applications were from blacks, 24 from Hispanics, 42 from Asians and 14 from people who identified themselves as Native American or "other," said Judith Serrin, who is directing the Office of Admissions.

She added: "We're pleased that we got applications from

everywhere we recruited -- NABJ, Howard University, University of Colorado, Wyoming, Atlanta University Consortium, Harvard, Penn, Vassar, SUNY/New Paltz and Gettysburg (Pa.)." Serrin said.

"We went looking in places we hadn't been to in a while but had good students."

Overall, the school received more than 900 applications, up from 843 last year.

Serrin noted that the number of applications that are complete and eligible to be considered for admission to the school is expected to be smaller.

Many applicants pay the \$50 fee but do not submit a complete college transcript and complete

two essays, or take the writing test, administered at locations around the country.

In past years, incomplete applications have resulted from people choosing to attend another graduate school (sometimes in a field other than journalism), those who accept a full-time job, or are unable to attend because of the cost. Tuition this school year is about \$14,000, and total expenses \$23,250. School officials said they did not know what a year of J-school will cost in 1990-91, but in recent years tuition and expenses have risen at a rate of about 5 percent.

On April 1 the school is expected to announce those accepted for next fall's class.

'Eyes on the Prize II' poster available

I dashed into the CVS drugstore in Williamstown, N.J. to fill a prescription when a possible addition to my den stopped me in my tracks.

A week before "Eyes on the Prize/Part II: America at the Racial Crossroads" was to debut on PBS, the store displayed a large poster promoting the eight-part series.

It was a sepia-colored photograph of freedom marchers walking in a narrow column. What appears to be an overcast sky is above them. Etched in the clouds in 18th century script are the opening lines of the U.S. Constitution. In the lower right

corner in smaller type is a description of the series. On the bottom line Melville Corp. and its 13 subsidiaries are listed as sponsors.

I asked the store manager how I could get a poster. He suggested that I write to the home office in Rhode Island. I sent a postcard and a couple weeks later I received a 22-by-28-inch poster. I wanted it because it looked good. I also thought that writing for one was another way to show support for an important series.

If anyone's interested in doing the same, write to Consumer Value Stores, Division of Melville Corporation, One CVS Drive, Woonsocket, R.I. 02895.



Another source
for national news.
Back page.

NABJ: Board to meet in L.A.

The National Association of Black Journalists cancelled its winter board meeting in Phoenix in an act of protest and will meet in Los Angeles March 2-4.

NABJ protested Arizona's suspension of a state holiday in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. The board was scheduled to meet Jan 12-14, the weekend before the King National Holiday.

The board failed to hold its first quarterly meeting in Region IX, the Rocky Mountain states, where NABJ has its fewest members but largest territory.

Several months before the cancellation, The board agreed at its fall

meeting to have the winter meeting in Phoenix.

But the vote appeared to be less than enthusiastic.

According to the fall meeting minutes, the board voted 6-2 to go, but six officers abstained. There are 17 officers on the full board.

Nashville, Tenn. was also proposed as a winter meeting site, but a motion failed. The board went into two off-the-record sessions before the final vote was taken.

Executive Director Carl Morris said while NABJ will probably break its habit of holding its spring board meeting in the city where the summer national convention is to be held (this year it is in Los Angeles), NABJ will still hold four board

Jobline

The Peoria *Journal Star* has an opening for a **photographer** with a minimum of two years experience. The *Journal Star* (93,000 circulation) is located in Central Illinois. Applicants should show a good working knowledge of color and black & white photography in news, sports and features.

Send resume and slide portfolio consisting of color and black & white samples to John W. Cary, photo/graphics editor, Peoria *Journal Star*, 1 News Plaza, Peoria, Ill. 61643. . . . The *Detroit Free Press* has openings for an **editor of The Way We Live** section; an **assistant business editor**, with strong editing experience or

Con't on next page

meetings this year.

* * *

College students, the deadline is March 31 to submit complete applications for the NABJ Scholarship Program. The program offers 10 one-year \$2,500 scholarships to African-American college students pursuing careers in journalism. Contact NABJ, Box 17212, Washington, D.C. 20041. Or call (703) 648-1270.

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Spring regional conferences

Region II, Northeast (N.Y., N.J. Pa.): April 6-7
Diplomat Hotel, Atlantic City. Theme: "Truth, headlines and videotape." Registration \$50 members, \$25 students, \$60 non-members and registration after March 21.
Regions V & VIII, Midwest (Ill., Mich., Wis., Iowa, Kan., Minn., Mo., Neb.): April 20-22, Holiday Inn, St. Louis.
Contact Gregory Freeman, (314) 622-7096.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Jobline

Con't from previous page

background as a business reporter; a news page designer; two copy editors, with at least two years experience preferred, and two city desk general assignment reporters. Contact Alice George, assistant to the managing editors at the *Free Press*, 321 W. Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48231. Or call (313) 222-6490. . . . WHYY-TV 12 is looking for an assistant news director/ producer for TV12 News at 5:30 p.m. in Wilmington, Del. Produce news programs and supervise reporters and production crew. Other duties include formatting the daily news rundown; selecting stories for coverage; researching stories and facts and providing editorial direction of news product. Minimum two years experience reporting/ producing a daily news program. Knowledge of Delaware and Delaware residency preferred. Send resume to Maureen Pilla, personnel associate, WHYY, Inc., 150 N. Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. Or call (215) 351-0528. . . . The

Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* has these openings: three general reporters, a business writer, a science editor, an editorial writer, an artist, and a photographer. Send clips and resume to Woodene Merriman, assistant m.e./ administration, Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, 50 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222. . . . The *Milwaukee Journal* (280,000-circulation daily, 500,000 Sunday) is looking for a Hispanic Affairs reporter. Must be bilingual. Looking for several years newspaper experience but not necessarily on that beat. Send resume and clips to Paul Salsini, *Milwaukee Journal*, P.O. Box 661, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201. Or call (414) 224-2387. . . . The *Detroit Free Press* is looking for an editorial writer. Desired: strong writer and good essayist with a real passion for public affairs. Contact Joe H. Stroud at the newspaper, (313) 222-6583. . . . The *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Ohio's largest newspaper, seeks an associate editor for its editorial page. Duties include writing editorials and

production of the editorial pages (providing supervision in the back shop). Required: Minimum three years reporting experience. Contact Maxine L. Lynch, assistant managing editor, at the *Plain Dealer*, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Or call (216) 344-4105. . . .

Don't keep it to yourself . . .

We'd like to hear from you. Send us your announcements, comments and story ideas.

B.A.N. People

Congratulations to Cheryl Devall, '82, who was one of the reporters who participated in National Public Radio "AIDS in Black America" series. In January, the series won a 1989 Dupont-Columbia award for radio news. . . . Lena Vanier, '88, joined WNEV-TV 7 (CBS) in Boston several months ago and is working as a

news administrator. Her duties include supervising several dozen college interns who work at the station each semester. Vanier previously was with *Gralla Publications*, a group of trade magazines based in New York City. . . . Sandra Roberts Bell, '82, writes a column for the Metro County Courier, a 7-year-old black weekly newspaper in Augusta, Ga. She also teaches journalism part-time at Paine College. . . . "Fort Greene's Black Renaissance" by E.R. Shipp, '79, appeared in last month's *American Visions*. The Brooklyn neighborhood has drawn attention as a mecca for artists and musicians such as Spike Lee, Branford Marsalis, Betty Carter and Max Roach. . . . Betty Winston Baye, '80, said that in Louisville, Ky., groups of people got together to watch episodes of "Eyes on the Prize II" then have discussions about the episodes afterwards. . . . Wayne J. Dawkins, '80, began writing an occasional series of pieces on black journalists in history. The first profile was on Ida B. Wells and it appeared in last month's *NABJ Journal*.

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Just music videos? No, a news operation grows

By Sabrina Dames

I started working at Black Entertainment Television (BET) in September 1986. I was estatic when I found out I'd gotten the job. I had just spent the previous two-and-a-half years working at a local Washington, D.C. television station, working 40 hours a week as a "part-time" news writer, with no company benefits.

I remember calling a fellow J-school graduate to tell her my good news. Her response was: "So what will you be doing, playing music videos?" Her cattiness angered me.

But looking back, I can understand why she said what she said. Very few people really know about BET and what the company represents.

BET is the nation's only black-owned and operated cable network. It was created by Robert L. Johnson in August 1979. It debuted in January 1980. (BET celebrated its 10th anniversary Jan. 25.) The network serves more than 25 million subscribers in 50 states, Washington, D.C. and several U.S. territories.

I was hired as a writer for BET News, America's first African-American national television news program. BET News is a weekly broadcast. It focuses on news that is of particular interest to the African-American community. For instance, in 1988, BET News covered both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. While the other networks focused on the candidates, BET News focused on the African-

Datelines Washington, D.C.

American movers and shakers of both parties. We broadcasted live from both conventions.

Another example was the Carol Stuart murder case in Boston. While the other networks focused on the murder, BET News focused on how the police were harassing residents of the Mission Hill neighborhood. We reported that aspect of the story months before the other networks even mentioned it.

The BET news staff has grown over the years, in addition to the weekly news show, our department produces public affairs programming such as

a nightly talk show called "Our Voices"; town hall meetings called "Black Agenda 2000," and news briefs five times daily.

I still write the weekly news program. I also report, anchor news briefs and produce.

BET, the company, has grown as well. The company opened its own \$10-million production facility in April 1989. BET currently produces about 20 programs in-house and airs another nine or so syndicated shows.

Every company has its problems and BET is no exception. The one thing I have noticed in particular that seems to be at the root of a lot of the problems I hear about the

company is that it has an antiquated billing system. The company is still a small one compared to others. And it has a small finance department which handles a large amount of paperwork. The system is being upgraded.

The pay is good in most cases. But just like all employees at other companies BET employees wish they were paid more. The hours are long but that's normal for this business. On the whole the company is a good one, especially in terms of the way it treats its workers.

BET is an excellent place to work if you were like me when I started with BET, tired of all the politics at the other networks and tired of not being promoted. It's also an excellent place to work if you're just getting started in the news business. You can get a lot of hands-on experience. There are currently only a few positions open at BET and most of the jobs are technical positions. BET is one of the few networks that's doing any hiring these days. The best time to apply for a position is just prior to the new season in September, once new programming is announced. Freelancers are used on a regular basis in all departments including news.

If you're interested in getting BET in your community, write your local cable company and request it.

The writer is a 1981 Columbia J-school graduate.

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Up in smoke
(Page 2)

Volume X, Number 4

April 1990

Effective journalists must have steady cars

By Toni Y. Joseph
DALLAS -- A motto I try to drive by: Never develop first-name familiarity with a body shop owner.

And while I've tried to drive by that rule, a friend urged me to paint a target on the passenger fender of my little blue Toyota. That fender has been replaced three times since I bought the car after graduating from Columbia J-school in 1986.

Those were accidents. Although the circumstances were beyond my control, there are things about cars that can be mastered.

ANOTHER motto that I drive by is make sure whatever I drive is reliable. That means the car should never fail to start just when I'm dashing out to that plane crash or heading for an interview 30 miles from the office.

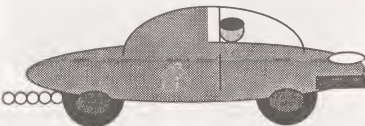
I speak from experience. I also talked with some classmates and colleagues, and their frightening and funny anecdotes affirm my motto.

Jackie Gray, '86, bought a cute little Nissan Pulsar for her first full-time job at *The Baltimore Sun*.

Our long-distance conversations always started the same way:

"Hi Jackie, What's up?"

After a pregnant pause, she'd say, "my car didn't start today. I had to drive my mother to work, so I could drive to work in her car.



"I went to Annapolis one day to cover a story, the rough part of Annapolis mind you.

"It was dusk. I hopped into the car, turned the key in the ignition. Nothing. It didn't make a sound. The car was dead. I walked around. It was dark. I found one person. He jump-started my car and told me not to stop. I coasted through the lights from Annapolis to Baltimore."

The Pulsar needed a new starter, a battery and a \$1,200 transmission job.

Jackie, now a features reporter at the *Milwaukee Journal*, still can't believe it. "I did regular maintenance on it," she explains.

She might have saved herself grief by investigating the car's reliability by talking to Pulsar owners and by reading its repair record in the *Consumer Reports Buyer's Guide*.

The non-profit annual, which accepts no advertising, details the repair records of dozens of models of the most frequently purchased cars. Researchers survey owners for several model years and report specific mechanical problems and plusses.

Jackie would have found out that a Pulsar was a hit-or-miss proposition at best.

Car ownership taught Lolis Eric Elie, '86, the essence of hit-or-miss. Eric bought a 1970 fixer-upper Ford Mustang for his first job at the *Atlanta Constitution* and

Journal. The vehicle tested his usually buoyant wit.

"It looked good sitting in the driveway," said Eric. "It's a shame that cars are supposed to move, because otherwise it would have been perfect."

"It was classic Murphy's Law proposition. You fix one thing and that only helps illuminate other problems. You fix the water pump, then realize the radiator ain't too good either."

The competitive environment and helter-skelter pace of daily journalism makes it no place for a person who can't get to work or to an assignment.

Some of us are fortunate enough to cover beats such as city hall that don't require much driving.

General assignment reporters and reporters who cover cops and other dynamic beats don't have that luxury.

Besides those tremendous Columbia student loan checks many of you write out each month, a house and a car are the biggest investments many of us will make during our lives.

Many of us dream of those big markets: New York, Washington, Los Angeles. The reality is that many of us land in itty-bitty places that have pitiful public transportation systems.

In smaller cities and towns, distances between

destinations can be great. I once covered a rural county. Riding my bike or walking from village to village was out of the question.

So, before you buy wheels, it's absolutely essential to consider a car's ability to get you where you have to be. Editors and news directors don't have time for sob stories.

"A car has to be like a reporter," says Melvin Coffee, executive producer of KXAS-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth. "It has to be ready to go immediately."

Before you accept an offer, insist that the newspaper or TV station agree to a salary that allows you to buy groceries, pay rent, student loans and a car note.

Keep in mind that, as a reporter, you'll beat a car like a pack horse. If it's already worn, chances are, it won't be able to withstand the pressures of your job.

Unless you have innate mechanical ability, you're likely to inherit someone else's problems if you buy a used car.

ERIC ELIE, now a graduate student at the University of Virginia, recommends some caution.

"Often, buying a new car is in the long run sometimes cheaper than buying a used car," he says. "If you get a lemon and get everything fixed, it's not the time to sigh. That's the time to sell it."

Even if you don't have the money, you don't have to buy used. Fortunately, manufacturers have special plans for first-time purchasers interested in new cars. Check those out.

Forget about cute. Buy reliable.

The writer is a reporter for the Dallas Morning News.

NABJ board says 'no' to cigarette companies

By **Wayne J. Dawkins**

The National Association of Black Journalists board of directors voted 9-8 to no longer accept corporate underwriting from tobacco companies.

The attempt by R.J. Reynolds to target a high-income cigarette called *Uptown* to black consumers had officers smoldering. The raucous debate forced a vote at the winter board meeting last month in Los Angeles.

NABJ President Thomas Morgan cast the deciding vote.

"I voted not to take it (cigarette sponsorship) only because of the *Uptown* campaign and the targeting (of African-Americans)," he said. "I was really upset by it."

Test marketing of *Uptown* was aborted in January after Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan angrily criticized R.J. Reynolds (a subsidiary of RJR Nabisco) for targeting a new cigarette to African-Americans, the segment of the U.S. population plagued with extraordinarily high

cancer death rates.

Just before the *Uptown* controversy, NABJ at its October meeting debated whether to reject tobacco and liquor underwriting. At that time the board agreed to accept support on a case-by-case basis.

Morgan says this issue is complicated because officers are concerned about public health as well as African-Americans' freedom of choice to use such products.

And, in NABJ's early years, makers of cigarettes and spirits generously underwrote programs and convention events.

They include the summer internship program, college scholarships and events at the national conventions, each with dollar costs running in the thousands.

* * *

In other action, NABJ announced that it sent an invitation to Nelson Mandela to speak at NABJ's national convention in Los Angeles in August.

Newsday editor/columnist Les Payne, who was traveling with Mandela around South Africa, carried the message.

Midwest director

Johnathan Rodgers of WBBM-TV, Chicago, resigned as NABJ Region VI director (Ill., Mich., Wis.). It was announced at the winter board meeting in March. The deputy regional director,

Dorothy Tucker, also of WBBM-TV, replaces him.

LA convention

"Words and Images: Challenges for the future," is the theme.

It is Aug. 1-5.

This year general sessions will be exclusive. Skill or specialty workshops will be offered at other times. The scheduled sessions are:

- The African-American male.
- Blacks in Hollywood.
- The New South Africa.
- Blacks in Multicultural America.
- Politics from Booker T. Washington to Jesse Jackson.
- Sports of the 90s.

Convention registration applications will be available this spring.

Pre-registration deadline is June 15.

Any applicants?

Officials at NABJ headquarters in Reston, Va. said they sent 1,700 scholarship applications to 400 colleges, student members, local chapters and to any eligible individual who asked.

Distribution began last November. The filing deadline is March 31.

As of Feb. 21, the national office had not received one application. Could there be a torrent of applications at the last minute?

Ten scholarships at \$2,500 each seem hard to pass up.

Don't keep it to yourself . . .

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B.A.N. People

Lezlie H. White (Akua Lezlie Hope), '77, is a winner of a 1990 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for Creative Writing. The fellowship is \$20,000 and it is designed to allow writers the chance to devote themselves to their craft. White, of Painted Post, N.Y., told a local newspaper that she plans to set aside part of the grant to finance *New Heat*, a literary collection of works of aspiring poets. "I want to provide a platform for other writers," she said. ... Since January, **Ken Maurice Jones**, '81, has been working for *Scholastic Publishing* in New York City as an associate editor. The company publishes magazines geared to junior high- and high school-age readers. ... Reporter **Marjorie Valbrun**, '86, moves to *The Miami Herald*, where she will cover higher education and the Haitian community. She was at the Fort Lauderdale *News & Sun-Sentinel* for 2 1/2 years. ... We received a copy of *African Kora* (journal of artists and intellectuals for children, published by UNICEF) recently and noted that **Nicholas Goude**, '85, is a contributing editor. ... **Charles Mapson**, '80, is district representative for Rep. Donald M. Payne, D-N.J.. The first African-American congressman elected in the history of the Garden State. Mapson is based in the Newark office and he says he enjoys every minute of the job. ... Temple University journalism instructor and Philadelphia Daily News columnist **Linda Wright Moore**, '73, had a busy Feb. 23. She participated in four events around the city involving young people and careers, including a media mixer where Temple's journalism and radio-TV-film students heard career advice from about a dozen African-American journalists from the Philadelphia-area. ... *Los Angeles Times* editorial writer **Gayle Pollard**, '73, wrote a feature on the history of African-Americans in journalism for *Aspiration and*

Con't on next page

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

5 Hopewell Lane
Sicklerville, N.J. 08081
(609) 728-4062/4001

Wayne J. Dawkins
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Betty Winston Bayes
Senior Editor

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Esther Iverem
Michelle Johnson
Lisa R. Rhodes

Contributing Editors

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Journalism Alumni.
(ISSN 1040-7758)

AFRICAN KORA

Journal of artists and intellectuals for children



Innovative ways to fight AIDS

by William A. Dyer, Jr.

Contents

[illegible]

Why the
children
dying

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Contents



Lezlie H. White

Portland, Ore., after working as a reporter for the *Portland Oregonian*. George said he had considered broadcast journalism for a while and he became aware of an opening at the television station he went after it. He says the



K. Maurice Jones

writing part of his job is O.K. but he was still a little uneasy in front of the camera ...

Hall of Fame

Washington Post columnist **Dorothy Gilliam**, '61, was among seven people to be



Marjorie Valbrun

inducted this month into the NABJ Hall of Fame. The other inductees are Mal Goode, ABC News; Mal Johnson, Cox Broadcasting; Gordon Parks, *Life Magazine*; Ted Poston (posthumous), *New York Post*, and Norma Quarles, NBC News.

Jobline

The Dallas Morning News has these openings: Two suburban reporters (contact Bob Mong, deputy managing editor), a features writer and a travel editor (contact Ellen Kampinsky, assistant m.e./lifestyles). Write to The Dallas Morning News, Box 655-237, Dallas, Texas 75265. Or call (214) 977-8360/ 8276. ... The American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) is seeking applicants for the position of **Minority Affairs Director**. A minimum of five years' newsroom experience on a daily newspaper is required, along with experience in minority issues. The minority affairs director coordinates and administers programs associated with ASNE's "Year 2000" goal of achieving racial parity in the nation's newsrooms. These include

regional job fairs, mini-sabbaticals for journalism teachers, scholarships, summer employment for undergraduates, a newsletter to editors, an annual employment survey, and support to the ASNE Minorities Committee. Names of potential candidates are welcomed as well as expressions of interest from applicants themselves. Send resume and salary requirements to Lee Stinnett, executive director, ASNE, P.O. Box 17004, Washington, D.C. 20041. The position will be filled June 1. ... *Business Week* magazine Washington Bureau is looking for an aggressive **reporter** with superior writing and analytical skills to cover the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Education, and urban affairs generally. Five years' experience

preferred. Contact: Stan Crock, news editor, *Business Week*, suite 1200, 1120 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Or call (202) 463-1626. ... *The Journal-Gazette* (Fort Wayne, Ind.) has these openings: **Assistant metro editor.** Responsible primarily for weekend local report and enterprise. Reporting experience required, some editing experience is an asset. The newspaper is also looking for a **librarian** to supervise a six-member staff. Responsible for daily clipping of the paper and general clerical services for the newsroom. Will be responsible for preparing the budget and for supervising the installation of a new electronic library system. Master's degree in library science preferred, experience with newspaper libraries an

asset. Contact: Craig Klugman, editor, *The Journal-Gazette*, P.O. Box 88, 600 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46801. Or call (219) 461-8853. ... WCVB-TV, Boston, an ABC Affiliate, seeks applicants for the Leo L. Beranek Fellowship for News Reporting, an on-the-job training program in broadcast journalism.

It is a nine-month, salaried internship. Required: A Bachelor's degree and proven interest in broadcast journalism, a grade transcript and three letters of recommendation as well as a statement why the applicant deserves the fellowship and what the future career objectives are. Application Deadline is **March 31**. Contact Carol Nicholson Bolling, human resources manager, WCVB-TV, 5 TV Place, Needham, Mass. 02192. Or call (617) 449-0400.

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Determination, self-control, necessary for success

By Wayne J. Dawkins
PRINCETON, N.J. --

Associated Press' Jerry Gray recalled how in the mid-'70s when he was a beginning newspaper reporter in Memphis, Tenn., an editor tried to undermine him.

Gray said he sought assignments but was repeatedly turned down. So, he was shocked when his immediate editor told another editor that Gray "was a lazy SOB who wouldn't amount to anything."

Gray rose above the putdown. Recently he urged journalists not to waver in the quest to improve and advance in the news business.

"You have to get a reputation of sticking it out and controlling your own destiny," the 14-year veteran newsman told nearly 20 members of the Garden State Association of Black Journalists this winter.

For the past 1 1/2 years Gray has been chief of AP's Newark bureau. Before that he was an AP Africa correspondent in Nairobi, Kenya and also reported from the United Nations.

In New Jersey he supervises 26 people (four of them African-American journalists) working out of Newark, Trenton, Atlantic City and Woodbury.

"You have to get a reputation of sticking it out and controlling your own destiny."

Being a bureau chief roughly is like being a publisher, said Gray. He writes less (which he misses) and concentrates more on managing and hiring.

"We don't see many people of color," he said, adding that frankly, he doesn't get much cooperation from the very people who are also supposed to be recruiting.

He said the recruiting season for minorities is from September to February when news industry job fairs are held.

Meanwhile, many colleges have job fairs in the spring. "Rutgers' job fair is in March," noted Gray. "I'll go looking, but for next year's crop." His "crop" are college sophomores and juniors eligible for 13-week AP minority internships. Last year 14 candidates, selected from 350 applicants, completed the program and

were offered newsroom jobs. Gray urged young journalists to:

- Seek work at smaller newspapers of television markets. "Your time as a journalist is better spent in Elizabeth or Asbury Park than *The New York Times* because they can warehouse you there."
- Bring printouts of the

unedited stories along with the clips. As a recruiter he doesn't give much weight to clip files. "I don't look at them. Nobody has a bad clip file." • Remember that many editors assume that when their black staffers attend NABJ conventions (which featuring a job fair) "they think you're not coming back."

Adding color to wedding news

NEW YORK -- *The New York Times* announced that it has begun actively soliciting wedding and engagement announcements from brides and grooms of all ethnic backgrounds.

According to the newspaper, this is a response to the

changing face of society and a commitment to reflect the diversity of its readership.

"The achievements of minorities must be an integral part of *The Times's* news coverage, including engagements and wedding announcements," said Claudia Payne, the newspaper's style editor.

Payne said many people believe they must be famous, wealthy or from a particular

ethnic background to have their engagement and wedding announcement printed in *The Times*.

"This isn't true," she said. "The criteria are the personal or professional achievement of either the bride or groom, or their parents. Anyone who has excelled in education, business, their profession, the arts, sports or another field would be appropriate and welcome."

The process to place an announcement is free. The procedure is explained in a recorded message, at (212) 556-7325.

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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

Term joins,
not divides
-- page 2

Volume X, Number 5

May 1990

Columbia J-school

240 admitted for '91; Religious press: Crusade at home and abroad

20% are minorities

By Lisa Rhodes

NEW YORK -- The number of applicants admitted to the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism for 1990-91 showed an increase in the number of African-Americans compared to last year.

According to data collected by the admissions office, 271 people were accepted for enrollment in September. The school received at least 900 applications.

Last year, 240 people were admitted and 183, or 75 percent of the group, showed up.

Of at least 150 minorities who submitted applications, 47 were admitted. Twenty-seven are African-American -- four more than last year.

There was a decline in the number of Latino, Asian-American and Native Americans admitted: 18 compared to 24 admitted last year.

Two applicants admitted labeled themselves "other" explained George P. Scher, associate director of admissions.

The number of women admitted total 146 and 125 men were admitted.

Among 22 international students admitted, three are from Japan, two are from Senegal and there is a South African.

The largest group of U.S.

citizens admitted are from New York State (76), followed by California (26) and Massachusetts (17).

Nine people admitted are from Canada.

The median age of the potential enrollees is 27. Fifty-eight students are spring college graduates.

Competing offers from other graduate schools, full-time jobs or the ability to garner funds affects who will actually show up in September.

Current tuition is \$14,000 and total expense is about \$23,250. A school official said that tuition for the upcoming year is \$15,488.

Most students receive some form of financial aid.

As for journalism concentrations, 119 students are expected to specialize in newspapers; 57 in magazines; 57 in television and four in radio.

Last year 46 percent of the students concentrated in newspapers, while 30 percent specialized in magazines. Twenty-six percent specialized in television.

By Brenda L. Webber

At an ecumenical consultation last fall on "Global Communications and Justice," I shared with some colleagues my experience as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching in a village small in northern Cameroon.

Soon after the village received electricity, television began to replace conversation and storytelling as evening entertainment. A group of my high school-age students saw an old U.S. movie about Hitler's youth. They came to class the next day good-naturedly wearing swastika designs on their arms, the full context of the Western film lost in the fun of it all.

Global communications, a buzz phrase of the '80s and now the '90s, is an important

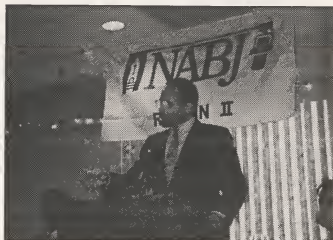
term in the milieu of religious communicators. As sophisticated communications technology spreads to remote African villages and people who cannot read, we need to be concerned. We need to broaden our vision.

Many outstanding Third World journalists were trained by church people, who taught professional communications, and set up print shops and established means of radio contact in cities, towns and remote areas of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Religious and Third World journalists have strong ties "from way back when."

During one of my first assignments as a religious journalist in 1988, I went to

Con't on back page



Newark Mayor Sharpe James speaks at the NABJ Region II Conference in Atlantic City. About 120 journalists from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania participated April 6. The theme was "Truth, Headlines and Videotape." There were workshops and a general session called "African-American leaders -- Under fire... under scrutiny...under investigation?"

Opinion

Term's intent to join, not separate

By Wayne J. Dawkins

The use of the term African-American in our language reflects a surge of pride in heritage and culture and an attempt for accuracy in defining a people.

There's a school of journalists, scholars and historians who favor a hyped African-American, others prefer no hyphen (African American). There's at least one author who wants the "c" in African replaced with a "k."

Differences aside, proponents of defining the "Africanity" of a segment of the American population should beware of distortions of the term.

I was surprised to read a newspaper account that described "African-American and African-Caribbean people."

And in the April issue of the *NABJ Journal*, a story describes four athletes as "three African Americans and a black Puerto Rican."

As I see it, African-American the term is a joiner, not a separator.

Black- or brown-skinned Panamanians, Puerto Ricans, Jamaicans, Brazilians,

"African-American" is a joiner, not a separator.

Canadians or U.S. Natives of New York, Detroit or Washington, D.C. are African-Americans -- black people or people of African descent living in the Western Hemisphere.

And on that theme, I spotted another mistake. An AP dispatch that appeared in the

Feb. 22 *Philadelphia Daily News* said that Philadelphian Gulton Bluford was the first black person to travel in space.

An African-American was put in orbit 11 years before Bluford but he wasn't from the United States. A Soviet spacecraft put a black Cuban, or African-American cosmonaut in orbit.

The oversight offers a lesson: Keep a global perspective of the African experience, regardless of nationality or ideology.

journalists provide.

I think that perhaps a lot of black students are shying away from journalism careers. This is very distressing.

I will certainly do my part to spread the word. You're right, \$2,500 is a lot to pass up.

Evelyn C. White, '85

San Francisco

Editor's note: By the March 31 deadline, NABJ received about 60 complete applications.

Letter:

NABJ scholarships

Re: "Any applicants" (B.A.N. 4/90).

In 1984 I received the NABJ Ida B. Wells Scholarship. I could not have attended Columbia GSJ without it.

I was stunned to read that folks aren't applying for scholarships. The same thing happened here in the Bay Area with some local scholarships black

Jobline

The Magazine Publishers of America (MPA) and Howard University are sponsoring a weeklong total immersion course in **magazine publishing procedures** July 15-21 in Washington, D.C. The course is to encourage the advancement of minorities in the magazine publishing field. Applications must be completed by May 30. Contact the Howard University School of Continuing Education (202) 636-7277 or 7278; or R. J. Melvin at MPA (212) 752-0055. ... The *Anchorage Daily News* is looking for a talented **copy editor** to be a leader in producing our **sports** sections. This job not only requires good editing and headline writing skills but also ability in the use of color, graphics and design. A minimum of five years daily editing experience is required. Send resume, work samples and reference list to Human Resources, Anchorage Daily News, P.O. Box 149001, Anchorage, AK 99514-9001. ... WJBK-TV 2, Detroit is seeking a **temporary technician** (photo/editor/audio). Duties include news and special events as assigned with



Columbia Journalism Alumni

Annual Spring Meeting

Friday, May 4, 1990
6 P.M.

Faculty Room, Low Library

Join us in honoring the
Journalism Alumni Award Winners

Wayne Barrett '68

Tom Bettag '67

Wayne Dawkins '80

Reception follows in the Rotunda

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Black Alumni Network Newsletter

5 Hopewell Lane
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Wayne J. Dawkins
Editor

Betty Winston Baye
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Esther Iverem
Michelle Johnson
Lisa R. Rhodes

Contributing Editors

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electronic cameras and editing videotape as assigned. Contact Willard Ogan, director of news operations, (313) 552-5181.

B.A.N. People

Leonard Holle, '89, a reporter for *Crain Communications*, was appointed this spring to serve on the Columbia Journalism Alumni executive committee. ... *Los Angeles Times* feature writer **Itabari Njeri**, '78, was profiled in *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* (3/28). She spoke of the need for American journalism to recognize a new "multicultural reality" shaping the country. Njeri is author of the memoir *Every Good-bye Ain't Gone: Family Portraits and Personal Escapades*. ... Some readers blinked when a *Wall Street Journal* article on April 6 noted that *Emerge* magazine hired a publisher but the piece said little about the future of founder **Wilmer C. Ames**, '71. Ames continues as editor-in-chief, according to a senior editor. *Emerge's* April issue featured four articles and 17 pages devoted to

to Africa and it was the first black-oriented magazine to place Nelson Mandela on the cover after his prison release. ... **Janice Greene**, '82, moves to the copy desk at *The Record* (Hackensack, Bergen Co., N.J.). She had been a reporter for the *Seattle Times* and most recently Janice worked for the Washington State Department of Trade & Economic Development...

Last chance

Attention '80 J-graduates.

For our 10th anniversary issue (July) we'd like to borrow a photo of yourself and we'd like you to respond to these questions:

- What and where was your first job after graduation?
- What were you subsequent and where were they?
- What are you doing now and where are you doing it?
- What is the single most important thing you believe you've learned in 10 years?

The deadline passed so please send material ASAP to 5 Hopewell Lane, Sicklerville, N.J. 08081-2503. Or call 609-728-4062.

Managing editor named in Louisiana

The New York Times Company named Tammy Collins Carter, 27, managing editor of the *Daily Comet* in Thibodaux, La. (12,500 circ.), one of the company's 35 regional newspapers.

Carter joined the *Daily Comet* in 1984 as a staff writer and became city editor three years later. She began her journalism career as a news assistant with *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans after receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Loyola University.

The New York Times Regional Newspaper Group includes 26 daily and nine non-daily newspapers located primarily in the



Tammy Collins Carter

southeast and California. It is one of four divisions of the \$1.8 billion media company.

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We'd like to hear from you. Send us your announcements, comments and story ideas.

Mon., May 14, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., McGraw-Hill, 1221 Sixth Ave., NYC. To register call (718) 520-7025. Deadline: May 4.

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Religious press

Continued

Costa Rica. It was the first time I really gave serious thought to the number of blacks in Nicaragua or throughout Latin America for that matter. I interviewed a young black female and several black male Nicaraguan refugees.

The young woman did most of the talking. She spoke English like the folk I grew up with on the east coast of Georgia and South Carolina. Explained that she had left her baby with her parents. She told of walking through the heavy brush and along the river, leaving behind pieces of her belongings as she tired. When she arrived at the Costa Rican refugee camp, she had nothing but the clothes she wore. She had no shoes and asked that I buy her some. With shoes, she said, she would look respectable enough to go out and seek day work in the community while living at the refugee camp. Her wages would be sent home to feed her family.

We never see these people on the evening news or read about them in the popular press. They are the descendants of blacks recruited from the Caribbean to help build the infrastructure of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and other Central American nations.

When a hurricane hit Bluefields on Nicaragua's

The United States is considered the "new mission field."

eastern coast, I knew that it was the black population that suffered greatly. That fact determined how I received and interpreted U.S. news coverage of the debate over whether aid should be sent to Nicaragua.

The rationalization was that any money or goods sent would end up with the Sandinistas or Contra rebels. At least that was the reason given by many who refused to help the disaster victims.

Various North American and European churches regularly send their communications staff to cover issues in developing nations where their church members are serving.

The United States, with its growing rate of poverty among women and children, its rise in homelessness and its increasing population of undocumented immigrants, is being considered the "new mission field."

Religious communicators are being dispatched to

report on social and spiritual concerns that test our moral values and our commitment

to God's earth. I've reported on undocumented immigrant children in the Rio Grand Valley, and stood on the bridge between Brownsville, Texas and Mexico and watched illegal aliens creeping across the border.

I've talked with Haitians and their horrific existence in Miami and about those locked up in the Miami detention center. I've ridden through the streets of

washington, D.C. with a local church worker, trying to flesh out the issues surrounding the affliction of crack cocaine, as the church turns its attention to the problem.

I learned about working-class black families, whose children sell drugs in order to help hold on to their inner-city homes, which are threatened by gentrification. And I learned about black families that are self-destructing.

In Atlanta, I saw public housing that had been tucked away years ago and virtually forgotten. I talked with community workers who are striving against the odds to rehabilitate or build new housing for the poor.

In all of these situations, I've felt good about being a religious journalist. Sometimes I run into compromises I must reconcile as an in-house journalist, versus one outside the system on which I'm reporting.

But then, I remember compromising situations when I worked in commercial journalism that spilled just as much of my blood on the floor.

For me it all amounts to doing the best I can, when I can and where I can.

The writer is a 1984 Columbia J-school graduate.



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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

Jobline,
People, page 3

Volume X, Number 6

June 1990

3 receive J-alumni awards

By LISA RHODES

NEW YORK — Wayne Barrett, J-68, Tom Bettag, J-67 and Wayne Dawkins, J-80, recipients of 1990 Columbia Journalism Alumni Awards, were commended for journalistic achievements and service during an award ceremony and reception May 4 at Low Library.

Barrett, and editor and writer for the *Village Voice*, was honored for steadfast and courageous coverage of malfeasance in New York City politics.

Bettag, executive producer for

CBS Evening News with Dan Rather, was cited for professionalism and grace under pressure.

Dawkins, an editorial writer for the *Courier-Post* in Southern New Jersey, was praised for his commitment and voluntary service in producing the *Black Alumni Network Newsletter*.

Yanna Brandt, J-54, outgoing president of the alumni association, announced activities for 1990-91.

This fall, the association plans to sponsor a distinguished journalist lecture series featuring five print and broadcast journalists who will

comment on the field and their career. The association also plans to honor an outstanding news executive at a major fund-raising dinner. Brandt noted that alumnus Frank Bruckner, J-33, has already contributed \$10,000 to defray the dinner costs.

Jerome Zukosky, 56, deputy chief of correspondents for *BusinessWeek*, was named the new president of the alumni association at the ceremony.

J-school Dean Joan Konner gave an update on the J-school's progress for 1989-90. "We had a good year academically," she said, "but not so good financially."

New elective courses, Critical Issues in Journalism and Independent Journalism, were offered for the first time. A mandatory Computer Access reporting class was offered last year. Konner said that Critical Issues in Journalism will be a required course for students this fall.

The school's broadcasting facilities have been upgraded thanks to new equipment.

Konner also noted that there will be several staff changes at the J-school this September. Mel Mencher, a professor at the school for 25 years, has retired after a year-long sabbatical. Martin Gottlieb, who served as a Gannett Visiting Professor this year, will take a position at *The New York Times*. And Bruce Porter, a former associate professor, will take a post at Brooklyn College.

New faculty appointments have not yet been made.

John Neiman, the J-school's director of Alumni Affairs and Development, is leaving to take a position at Bard College. He was replaced by Bruce Kaufman.

Konner said that despite the fact that the school ended the year with a \$300,000 deficit, there are plans to schedule a major fund-raising drive to generate funds for a new \$15 million endowment.



Baye, 'J-80, selected for fellowship

Betty Winston Baye, '80, was selected to be a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University for 1990-91.

Though many were confident she would be selected, Baye said she was surprised. She called the final interview in Cambridge, Mass., the "weekend from hell."

Baye's thighs bonded, an interviewer nodded off in the stuffy room, and the usually quick-witted woman suffered a mental lapse: Baye couldn't describe the study project she researched so thoroughly. But the judges knew they had a winner.

Baye's research project at Harvard will be "Literacy and the Use of Culturally Conscious Material in Newspapers to Promote it."

A humble thanks and solemn pledge

This is a condensed version of the address by Wayne J. Dawkins at the Columbia Journalism Alumni Awards program.

I have mostly fond memories of J-school — like those Monday morning sessions in the World Room with newsmakers and news shapers like William F. Buckley, former New York mayor Ed Koch, Roger Wilkins, John Chancellor and during which we neophytes parried with them during often outrageous Q & A sessions. And there were those Fridays of the law class, or the "First Amendment as theater," starring Fred Friendly and Benno Schmidt.

I learned a lot from professors like Donald "Pete" Johnston, Phyl Garland, Barbara Belford, and a handful of gifted and dedicated adjuncts.

I recall a frantic, exhausting but exhilarating eight months of work.

But my fondest memories were of the 170 men and women who made up the class of 1980. We were a diversified lot — lawyers, teachers, musicians, writers, freshly minted college graduates and very mature adults.

The exchanges of ideas and experiences were precious.

Among the 170 were two dozen African-Americans, and not surprisingly, we developed a bond.

I don't remember anyone saying it, but I sensed a determination from my black classmates to excel, but to also support one another, even in the heat of competition.

After the Journalism Day festivities, a couple days before commencement, a group of us got together for drinks at the old West End bar on Broadway.

There, the idea for the *Black Alumni Network* originated.

We were about to disperse. I would go only 15 miles north to Mount Vernon, but my new friends were going to places like Dallas, Houston, Washington, D.C., Louisville, Ky., Wilmington, Del. and Atlantic City.

CONTINUED on back page

Advertisement



Merv Aubespin

Scholarship fund established at Aubespin roast

By CHERYL DEVAL

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Association of Black Communicators laughed all the way to the bank with \$3,015 in scholarships raised during a roast and toast of a pre-eminent member, Merv Aubespin, associate editor of *The Courier-Journal*.

Friends and colleagues from around the nation came to pay back a man who, in the words of *Courier-Journal* editor David Hawpe, "has made a career of opening doors for other people."

The event took place on April 21 during the NABJ Region VI conference.

Aubespin, 52, was an artist at the *Courier-Journal* in the 1960s when the newspaper drafted him to cover the civil rights movement and racial unrest in Louisville.

Like many other African-Americans who entered the business at the time, Aubespin was sent to Summer Program for Minority Journalists at Columbia University.

Alice Bonner, director of educational programs for the Gannett Foundation, attended that program with Aubespin. Bonner recalled that "Merv spent all his time looking up at buildings," decked out in a Brown polyester suit with white topstitching and white plastic boots to match.

The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves

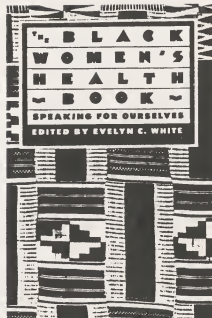
edited by Evelyn C. White

This anthology is the first book to address the topic of black women's health, written by and for black women. Nearly forty contributions — from personal accounts of struggle and recovery to political analysis of the racism that cripples the medical establishment — give testimony to the strength and courage of black women everywhere to live peaceful, healthy lives.

Selections include essays on the black family in America, teenage pregnancy, reproductive rights, the politics of health, community organizing and the black women's self-care movement, and strategies for dealing with health problems such as AIDS, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, hypertension, stress, substance

addiction, lupus and cancer. Other contributions describe woman-centered healing and the heritage of black folk medicine as well as the experiences of today's black women health care providers, with accounts from a medical student, nurse, doctor, traditional midwife, dentist, feminist therapist and several health activists.

Contributors include founder of the National Black Women's Health Project Blythe Avery, Angela Y. Davis, Faye Wattleton, Marian Wright Edelman, Beverly Smith, Barbara Smith, Jewelle Gomez, Pat Parker, Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston and many others. This is a pioneering work, not about victimization but about the pride and empowerment of black women.



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21

Aubespin's friends from that era pointed out repeatedly that he couldn't fit into that same suit today.

The retort honoree has enjoyed a long and affectionate relationship with food and drink. Said Kentucky State Sen. Gerald Neal, "You name it, Merv likes it . . . and if you make up a name, he'll say he's eaten it!"

Other roasters included Loren Ghigione, immediate past president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors; Michael Days, business editor, *Philadelphia Daily News*; Angela Dodson, living editor, and Michel Marriott, reporter, from *The New York Times*, and Vernon Jarrett, Chicago *Sun-Times* columnist, who, like Aubespin, is a founding member and former NABJ president. Jarrett extolled Aubespin as "an extension of our black history" and "an example of the simple joy of excellence."

During an afternoon of affectionate storytelling, probably no one laughed harder and longer than Merv Aubespin himself.

He surveyed the grand ballroom of the Seelbach Hotel, filled with black and white guests, and observed, "if we could make this industry like this room, then we're three-quarters of the way there."

"I am the world's greatest optimist, and with friends like this, why not?"

Correction

The headline for the article on journalism school admissions (5/90) listed wrong numbers. There were 271 people admitted to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism for 1990-91.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Contributing Editors

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Founded by Columbia
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(ISSN 1040-7758)

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TV Broadcast operator, promotions producer, underwriting. Send resume and references ASAP to WYBE-TV 35, P.O. Box 11896, Philadelphia, Pa. 19128.



Evelyn C. White

B.A.N. People:

In *Emerge*, **Toni Yvonne Joseph**, '86, wrote about the first major traveling art exhibition that explores African-American's

aesthetic to the motherland: "Black Art-Ancestral Legacy" (May issue). ... In the 20th anniversary issue of *Essence* (May), **Marilyn Milloy**, '82, co-authored the

three-part tribute to outstanding women who have made a difference in the last 20 years ("Legends in Our Time."). **Evelyn White**, '85, profiled grass roots and civic leaders who are trying to improve Oakland, Calif. ("Power Of The People").

Some people seen at the Spring Alumni meeting May 4: Jill Nelson, Barbara Mosely, Janie Sykes Kennedy, Rita Thompson, all '80; Kirk Jackson, '82; Kym Richardson '87; Toni Randolph, Lisa Rhodes (both '88); George Daniels, '70; Dorothy Davis '77.

Akili Buchanan, '80, correspondent/producer for KQED-TV (PBS) in San Francisco, was working on "Rap City Rhapsody," an hour-long documentary scheduled to air this month. It looks at the music in general, with a particular focus on rappers in Oakland and the Bay Area. "Rap is the anthem of the 1990s, and it's saying things to America it needs to hear, whether it wants to hear it or not," Akili said. "That's why I pushed to do this documentary."

Announcement Goldensohn Fund

Five years ago, our friend and classmate Dick Goldensohn, '80, died at the age of 39. Before attending Columbia J-school, he had worked on two alternative publications and founded a third; after graduation he was a reporter and editor for the *Hudson Dispatch* and the *Star-Ledger* in New Jersey and *New York Newsday*.

Dick gave rich meaning to the maxim that the reporter's job is to comfort the afflicted as well as afflict the comfortable.

To honor him, a group of friends and colleagues established the Dick Goldensohn Fund as a means of carrying on his commitment to lively and effective stories that investigate abuses of the public trust, spotlight overlooked aspects of contemporary life, or promote social, political and economic justice.

So far, we have raised over \$80,000 and given 27 grants to an enormous variety of projects.

We are proud of what the Fund has accomplished in four years. But we're also excited about what it can do in the '90s. Applications to the Fund are getting better every year, as word continues to spread that we exist to help reporters who believe in making a difference.

We hope that you will make a tax-deductible contribution to the Dick Goldensohn Fund.

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Speech

Continued

Most of us were embarking on our first jobs in journalism, a craft that even today — 10 years later — isn't desegregated to our satisfaction.

We wanted to succeed in our careers but we also wanted others of color to succeed.

All we really promised that afternoon at the West End was keep in touch and to be a support network for one another since we knew that an old boys network hand long existed in daily journalism.

We wanted to find ways to break through, or at least build a network that would work for us.

That's where the "network" in *Black Alumni Network* originated: a chain growing or bonding stronger.

Weeks later, I thought that a newsletter would be the best way to stay in touch.

That first effort was a single page — typed out on my old Olivetti manual — about where we all were moving and of job possibilities.

I made and mailed 25 copies. Subsequent issues carried accounts of workplace experiences, births, and wedding announcements.

Most readers were happy to get a sort of monthly "letter from home," even if it meant paying dues to cover the costs.

Classmate and friend Betty Winston Baye, my partner in this effort, and I kept tinkering, trying to improve the newsletter's content and quality.

"We knew that an old boys network existed in daily journalism.

We wanted to find ways to break through, or at least build a network that would work for us."

A monthly that kept up with the lives of 25 people was nice, but we wanted to do much more.

We wanted to grow. So we began sending copies to minority students in J-school class that followed ours. We encouraged them to become subscribers after graduation. We also searched for alumni who preceded us and encouraged them to subscribe too.

Later, I befriended African-American journalists who had no connection to Columbia and encouraged them to also subscribe and share articles and information.

I did the same with media organizations, since like many colleagues, I wanted to eliminate the lame excuse some news managers make that "we can't find good minority journalists."

BAN tried to maintain a strong relationship with the J-school, wanting to ensure that capable African-Americans were seriously considered for admission and that they were not instantly discouraged by what looked like a prohibitive expense.

We pressed the J-school administration to work harder to recruit minorities and to not be content to rest on its laurels.

We've been pushy, and, critical sometimes, but it's always done in the spirit of caring. With criticism, we've offered suggestions.

Ten years since tapping out the first issue in my apartment on 145th Street, the newsletter has survived six address changes.

About 350 copies now circulate monthly in three dozen states, and now and then, international locales like Cameroon and Zambia.

Producing the newsletter is a labor of love; that's a favorite phrase of Betty Baye.

Whenever I fret about how I will get the next issue out, I'm re-energized when I check the mailbox and find subscription dues from people who trust in this enterprise.

Or, I work harder out of gratitude to alumni and friends who volunteer to write articles, edit copy, offer advice and critiques.

I am a firm believer in multiculturalism and in finding strategies to boost racial diversity in journalism.

The 1980s was a devastating decade for African-Americans with respect to higher education. After steady gains in the '60s and '70s, participation by blacks in college stagnated.

College costs have skyrocketed and student aid has not kept pace.

When it comes to journalism education, I wonder: How will the American news media honestly reflect the society it covers unless more people of color are in the pipeline, preparing to become journalists?

That's a difficult question. I've raised it several times at various forums and I've yet to get a satisfactory reply.

I'm up to the challenge to struggle to improve conditions.

I feel obligated. A generous grant from a prestigious media company paid most of my J-school tuition.

It gave me an opportunity to study here, realize a journalism career and dream of trying to advance in the craft and make a difference.

I want the same opportunities and more for journalists of color who come behind me.

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Jobline,
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Budget Update, 2

Volume X, Number 7

July 1990

NABJ to sponsor 'Day of absence'

By Betty Winston Baye

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Here are highlights from the NABJ board of directors meeting, which was June 1-3:

* The board is soliciting comments from members about the wisdom of sponsoring a nationwide "Day of Absence" this fall to protest the sorry state of minorities in the nation's newsrooms. The "Day of Absence" would not be a strike since individual journalists may, if they wish, make advance arrangements to be absent.

It has been suggested that NABJ stage press conferences in major cities during which industry statistics would be trotted out for public scrutiny.

NABJ needs to hear from its members whether there should be a "Day of Absence." Send comments ASAP to NABJ, 11600 Sunnyside Valley Dr., Reston, Va. 22091.

* There may be a showdown at NABJ's Los Angeles convention next month over who is eligible for full membership. The issue resurfaced during the board meeting when members grappled with proposed revisions to the Constitution. The debate centers on whether eligibility for full membership should be broadened to include journalism professors, students, public relations types, publishers and people employed in sales, advertising and circulation.

There are a few people working such jobs who are full members, having been grandfathered in because they were once journalists and NABJ members. However, most people in non-newsroom categories may only become associate NABJ members, which means they have most of the privileges of full members, but may not vote in national elections or hold office.

* NABJ's search for an executive director to replace Carl Morris, who will retire following the Los

Editorial writer

Role demands writing, editing and production

By Wayne J. Dawkins

When I wrote for this space nearly three years ago it was on my experiences as a reporter for the *Courier-Post* in Camden/Cherry Hill, N.J.

I have returned to this space to write about another role I've held since April 1988: editorial writer.

I am part of a four-member staff (the editorial page editor, op-ed editor and two writers). We produce an editorial page every day, an op-ed page Monday through Friday and on Sunday *Forum*, a section of news analysis and commentary.

I'm expected to write about five editorials a week, edit letters-to-the-editor, opinion pieces and syndicated columns.

My job is about 65 percent writing, 35 percent editing and production. I applied for

Datelines

Camden, N.J.

the position because I saw an opportunity to learn and apply skills other than reporting.

These skills really get put to the test around big holidays. The Friday before Memorial Day, we produced editorial pages for Saturday, Sunday and Monday (our routine), plus a Tuesday page. The editorial page editor was off, so three of us had to work faster and longer.

My big test however was several months after I began my new position. Carl, the op-ed editor, was vacationing. Fine. But Dick, the boss, called in sick.

That left me and Harriet, who was six months

pregnant, to get the pages out.

Before this temporary, but abrupt 50-percent cut in manpower, the plan was to gradually teach me production: i.e. sizing illustrations with a proportional wheel; dummyming in letters to the editor and columns on the layout sheet, and working with the paste-up people in the composing room.

But times called for the crash course: Harriet handed me a proportional wheel and told me to size pictures. Now.

As for the switch to editorial writing from news reporting, after years of being the observer trained to tell what's going on (just the facts please), this role calls for being judgmental. The more opinionated the better.

Continued on back page

Photo by Bill Hamilton.



Some '80 Columbia J-alumni when they were students. From left, Akili Buchanan, Fred

Johnson, Wayne Dawkins, Gil McDonald and Betty Winston Baye. See story on page 3.

Continued on next page

Budget Update

Balance before	
Jan. 1990 issue: \$	389
Revenues	
12/15/89 to	
6 /15/90:	1,784
Subtotal	2,173

Expenditures	
Jan. to June	
newsletters:	1,844

Balance (Before	
January issue)	\$ 329

300 to 500 newsletters
circulated monthly



Washington Post columnist **Dorothy Gilliam**, '61, will be a 1990-91 fellow at the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia University. Her research project is "Racial Diversity and Media Movement: A Critical Analysis." ... **Rhoda McKinney**, '87, is a reporter at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. She's been there since June 1989. She

of media industry and its leaders, experience in publication layout and production. If interested, send a resume, salary requirements and information immediately to

Denise Johnson, c/o NABJ,
11600 Sunrise Valley Dr.,
Reston, Va. 22091.

* The Black Journalists

B.A.N. People

was previously on the editorial staff of *Ebony* for 2 1/2 years. Seattle is Rhoda's hometown. She returned after 10 years living and working elsewhere. ... **Dorothy M. Davis**, '77, married Bill Joseph of New Orleans in August 1988. Joelle Jihan, their daughter, was born July 7, 1989. After 11 years in Philadelphia, Dorothy and family moved to Morristown, N.J. She has a three-year-old company, Dorothy Davis & Associates. She is a cross-cultural communications consultant specializing in public relations and special events. ... **Ernest Tollerson**, '75, is the new editor of the editorial page for *New York Newsday*. He has been with *Newsday's* editorial page staff four years. Previously he was Trenton bureau chief for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. ... *The New York Times'* **E.R. Shipp**, '79, participated on

Association of Southern California is working feverishly to put the finishing touches on NABJ's first West Coast convention Aug. 1-5. For convention information, call the national office: (703)648-1270.

the panel "Governing and Covering a Tense New York City," a session that focused on racial tension. Shipp said the press had a responsibility to provide context about people like headline-grabber the Rev. Al Sharpton and seek out other minority voices. Sharpton, she said, can neither be dismissed or viewed as representative. ... Free-lance writer **Bridgett Davis**, '86, is a contributor to *"THE BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH BOOK: Speaking For Ourselves,"* edited by **Evelyn C. White**, '85. This month a segment on the book is to be broadcast July 20, 1:30 p.m. on WBAI-FM Pacifica Radio, New York. Also reviews and press coverage are expected.

Survivor

Christopher G. Trump, former associate dean of administration at Columbia J-school, embarked on what was to be a pleasant hike through Washington State's Mt. Rainier National Park in late April.

But a blizzard turned the overnight trip into a week-long fight for survival.

Trump, 55, survived the elements and wrote a first-person account for *The Financial Post* (One man's wintry taste of death." 5/14).

NABJ board

Continued

Angeles convention, continues.

Preferred qualifications are 10 years or more daily newspaper or broadcast experience; previous NABJ experience; supervisory experience required; knowledge

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Senior Editor

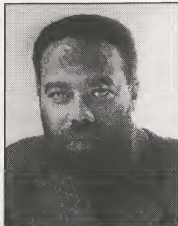
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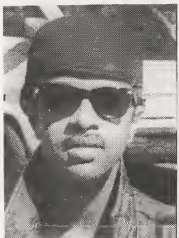


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McBride



B. Nelson



J. Nelson



Thompson

J-'80 graduates:

What they have accomplished and learned in 10 years

Rita Thompson

My first job after graduation was a producer for WGGB in Springfield, Mass.

I was the first producer they ever had for their news broadcasts. After two years in Springfield I went to New Haven, Conn to work at WTNH-TV. I produced the early morning news cut-ins and the noon newscast.

I had to report to work at 3 a.m. I was so gung-ho at that stage in my career I actually walked to work. Never again do I want to work those hours. I stayed in New Haven three years before going to Boston, where I'm currently working as a field producer on a newsmagazine called *Chronicle*. It is definitely the payoff for those years of toil in the smaller markets. The

most important thing I've learned in 10 years is that there is no guarantees that a job will be waiting for you in the big city after two years experience in the boonies.

Betty Winston Baye

First job after graduation: Reporter, *The Daily Argus*, Mount Vernon, N.Y., 1980-84. 1984-present: *The Courier Journal*, Louisville, Ky. Came as a general assignment reporter. In 1986 promoted to assistant city editor. In 1989 reassigned as assistant editor, Neighborhoods, supervising three weekly editions.

May 1990: Selected as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University for 1990-91.

Single most important lesson: To always be

prepared to be thrown a curve. I am responsible for my future so I must do whatever I can to be qualified and accept new challenges.

James McBride

1980: Government reporter, Wilmington (Del.) *News Journal*. 1981: Musical director, "Lady Day," Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia. 1981-83: Feature writer, Living Section, *The Boston Globe*. ... 1984: *People* magazine, Time, Inc., assistant editor. ... 1985: Sax player, Kenny Johnson's Blues Co., Northampton, Mass. ... Free-lance writer, *Us*, *Rolling Stone*, *Essence*. 1986: Staff writer, Style section, *The Washington Post*. 1988 -- Songwriter for Anita Baker ("Good Enough," "Love You to the Letter.") and

Grover Washington Jr. ("Gramercy Park").

Jill Nelson

After graduation I worked in New York City full-time as a free-lance journalist for six years. In 1986 I was hired as a staff writer at the new Sunday *Washington Post Magazine* and moved to Washington, D.C.

In February 1989, I moved to the Metro staff, where I am a general assignment/features writer. What's the most important thing I've learned? THE ONLY FREE PRESS IS THE ONE YOU OWN!

Wayne J. Dawkins

Two weeks after graduation I began work as the police reporter for *The Daily Argus* in Mount Vernon, N.Y. On my first day of work, editor Nancy Keefe was briefing me on my responsibilities when someone bolted into her office. He said that a railroad

Continued on next page

Founders

Continued

worker was seriously shocked while working on the tracks.

The briefing was over, it was time to cover my first story.

In February 1984 I moved to the *Courier-Post* in Camden/Cherry Hill, N.J. I worked as a reporter until 1988 when I joined the editorial page staff.

After 10 years I still believe that if you give an honest effort you will soak up experiences and expertise that can only make you better.

Barbara Nelson

April 1980 to September 1981, researcher, Study Commission on U.S. Policy Toward Southern Africa.

1981: Contributing editor, Whitney Communications Corp. ... Editorial consultant, African-American Institute.

November 1981 to April 1984: Grantee, Rockefeller Foundation. July 1984 to February 1986, First Officer, Department for Special Political Affairs, United Nations. March 1986 to present: Research Associate, Ford Foundation.

The one thing I've learned in the past 10 years is that journalism was the best possible choice I could have made. Journalism widens perspective and requires balancing several, possibly opposing points of view. Another advantage is that its benefits extend well beyond the profession itself. The required process of constant

inquiry, analysis and organization imposes a certain discipline of mind. The ability to develop thoughts in logical and orderly fashion enhances understanding and empowerment in an increasingly challenging and complicated world.

The choice of journalism has also considerably increased my sense of being able to exert some degree of personal influence in a socially responsible way.

Akili Buchanan

My first gig after graduation was associate producer at ABC News in Washington. I became a full producer two years later. I worked for "World News Tonight," "Good Morning America," and "This Week with David Brinkley" and "The Weekend Report."

In 1985 I went to NBC News as a producer for the prime-time news magazine "American Almanac," which later became "1986." I did a brief stint at CNN. I wrote and produced a series of profiles on the 100th Congress.

In August 1987 I became a correspondent for the "Christian Science Monitor Reports," a half-hour syndicated documentary program. In 1988 The Monitor sent me to Zimbabwe to do documentaries -- one on the Black Rhino war, and another on the racial situation in Zimbabwe 10 years after blacks came to power. I am currently a correspondent/producer for KQED public television in

San Francisco.

The most important thing I have learned in 10 years is that as journalists, whatever medium we choose, we are in a struggle to legitimize our own World View. The struggle of ideas is second only to the struggle for state power itself. I know each and every one of us can recall an experience when our editorial judgment was questioned, not because it was erroneous, but because it wasn't Eurocentric.

If we are "doing the right thing" every day is a battle. We go home stressed out from battle fatigue, wondering whether we have chosen the right profession.

We have, but no one said doing the right thing was easy.

'Closer Look'

"A Closer Look with Kae Thompson" is scheduled to air this month on WNYC-TV, New York's public broadcasting channel, with a 16-million viewer market.

"A Closer Look" is an hour-long issue-oriented magazine format program with a participating audience. The show looks at controversial issues, news stories, social problems and political areas that are of serious concern to the multiracial and African-American communities.

Advertising spots are available. Media World Productions designs and

Datelines

Continued

I was shocked to learn that too many facts weakened an editorial.

Choosing editorial topics is challenging. To be effective I try to eliminate topics that are merely interesting and write about subjects that I feel strongly about.

Locally, there's political maneuvering, land use controversies and school board decisions to comment on. We write for a 102,000-circulation newspaper that covers primarily Camden, Burlington and Gloucester counties, a region of 1.2 million people.

I sound out topics with the editorial page editor. My two other colleagues often banter about the pros or cons of the position.

We usually run two editorials a day in a vertical space that can hold about 30 column inches. Fitting this space usually means "marrying" a long lead editorial with a shorter secondary piece. We write editorials to an approximate length and after editing it could shrink or grow slightly in order to fit.

produces television and radio programming and commercials. A 30-second spot is \$500; 60-second spot \$950. Discount five and 10 spot packages are available. Write to P.O. Box 1276, Maplewood, N.J. 07040. Or call (201) 642-0006.

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**Boycott
Journalists'
allegiances
challenged**

By Roger Chesley
DETROIT -- A coalition of black ministers, business and civic leaders against the Detroit *Free Press* and WXYZ-TV 7 has left Brenda Gilchrist feeling like she's in the middle of a dispute.

"The black community rightfully expects black journalists to remain part of the solutions to the problems facing us as a group of people," said Gilchrist, an education writer for the *Free Press*.

"And yet, most of us work in environments where that is not the agenda, where ... those concerns may not be a priority."

Black journalists at both outlets -- as well as executives there -- are pondering such issues as fairness, balance and objectivity in the wake of the boycott launched in April by the Inter-Faith Council of Religious and Civic Leaders.

Boycott leaders have said most of the news media in Detroit slam the city, attack Mayor Coleman Young and don't present positive news in the same way they do negative stories.

Officials at both media outlets say the boycott has not had much effect on subscriptions or ratings. But journalists at both places say they believe the boycott has caused greater discussion about story play and forced the outlets to be more concerned about sensitivity.

Black journalists interviewed for this story say the boycott also heightened a problem they often face every day: How do you report fairly

Continued on back page

**Convention expenses: Cutbacks
balanced by rising membership**

By Dan Holly
MIAMI -- For years, the policy of *The Miami Herald* for picking up expenses for the the National Association of Black Journalists convention was simple: Employees got \$100. That's all.

This year, after several months of agitating by the newspaper's minorities for better treatment, and mandates from the parent company Knight Ridder, to do a better job of hiring and retaining minorities, *The Herald* is picking up the entire convention registration fee (\$175) for its employees.

The Boston Globe had traditionally been more generous than *The Herald* at picking up NABJ convention expenses. Last year, the newspaper picked up all of the convention expenses for about five people.

This year, *The Globe* would do that for two employees.

The changes show counterbalancing trends at U.S. newspapers, which send the bulk of delegates to the annual NABJ conventions: Hard economic times are causing cutbacks in benefits some newspapers have traditionally provided to their employees, but an increasing commitment to minorities -- in many cases, due to demands by minorities on their staffs -- have resulted in greater benefits at other newspapers.

The trends appear to have canceled each other out; attendance probably will not drop at the 1990 convention in Los Angeles this month, beyond a natural drop that is to be expected because most



NABJ members live on the East Coast. (This is the first West Coast convention in NABJ's 15-year history.)

According to NABJ Executive Director Carl Morris, the best indicator of the effect of the tough times on big advertisers and on media revenues is the number of recruiters media outlets send.

Since publishers and broadcast owners pick up the recruiters' expenses, from air fare to food, they are usually the first group to feel the pinch in an economic downturn, Morris said.

There will be 112 recruiters in Los Angeles, about the same number as last year. "All the usual cast of characters will be there," Morris said.

An estimated 1,600 delegates are expected to attend. While that is below the record-breaking 1,991 people who came to New York in 1989, the drop is to be expected for a convention so far away from the East Coast, according to Morris.

Two factors have made NABJ conventions somewhat impervious to economic hard times in Morris' view:

- The growing job responsibilities (and salaries) of NABJ members

as they grow older, allowing more to pay their own way;

- And, the number of new faces at conventions.

The latter trend first became noticeable in St. Louis in 1988, Morris said.

"Everybody said, 'Nobody's going to go to St. Louis,' Morris recalled. But a record-breaking crowd showed up -- many of them first-time convention goers.

Now, the location of conventions and other factors are having an increasingly small effect on the number of delegates. "All systems are go," Morris said. "We could go to Alaska and we'd still get a damn crowd."

The Miami Herald used to pick up the full registration fees of employees several years ago when the standard fee was \$100, according to Maria Garcia, *The Herald's* assistant managing editor for personnel and top recruiter.

"The registration went up, but the budget (for employee's expenses) did not," Garcia said. "We still had just \$100 (per person) to contribute to it. This year, I just decided that it (the full registration) was a small enough amount that we could do it."

Garcia said she got relatively little resistance from top management when she proposed the new policy.

African-American reporters and editors from *The Herald* have long complained about the relative lack of NABJ benefits they get compared to other large metropolitan dailies. This year, those and other issues came to the forefront when *The Herald's*

Continued on back page

Profile

Gayle Pollard: Passion for journalism still strong

By Cheryl D. Fields
LOS ANGELES -- Among journalists, Gayle Pollard is an anomaly.

She is young, black, female and an editorial writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, one of only eight journalists serving in that capacity at one of the nation's most widely read daily newspapers.

Pollard covers issues related to homelessness, housing, public safety, civil rights and local government. She is one of two blacks and one of three women on the *Times'* editorial board. For someone with such heavy responsibilities she is refreshingly warm, optimistic, energetic and has a sharp sense of humor.

Pollard believes her role as an editorial writer is that of crusader for the people who live in Los Angeles, especially the poor and dispossessed.

"We attract a learned audience and elected officials," she said when asked who reads the editorial pages. "But there is also a core of people who really care about how the city works. I love editorial writing because you have the freedom of stating an opinion. You feel



Gayle Pollard (third from left) at an NABJ convention. From left: DeWayne Wickham, Sheila Brooks, Pollard, and Tom Morgan.

like you're influencing policy."

POLLARD'S interest in journalism began while she was a sophomore at the University of Michigan. By chance, her father learned that newspapers were looking for talented black reporters.

"My dad called me at school one day and said that he'd ridden on a plane with a man from the *Milwaukee Journal* who said they were looking for black reporters," she explained. "He ordered me to take an introductory journalism course, so I did."

Pollard said she doesn't think her father knew she liked to write at the time, but he wanted to provide his daughter with educational guidance that would lead her

to career opportunities. In this case, the advice was perfect.

Although Pollard wasn't crazy about her first journalism class, she took feature writing as her second course in the field, and loved it.

"I went to Howard University my junior year in college, and took three journalism courses there," she said. "I got an internship at *The Washington Post* the summer after my junior year and that was when I first

began to think of myself as a reporter."

Pollard returned to Michigan for her senior year and worked on the *Michigan Daily*, the school paper. The summer after graduation she worked for *The Miami Herald*. In the fall, she entered the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

After receiving her master's degree in 1973, she returned to *The Herald*, and for 5 1/2 years gained invaluable reporting experience.

In 1978, Pollard went to *The Boston Globe*. At *The Globe* she became known for her feature writing. During the last two of her six years there, she began writing editorials.

"I left (Boston) in 1984 to come here (Los Angeles) because the racial climate was bad, and even though I loved my boss and my job, I decided I needed to get out of there," she said.

POLLARD IS passionate about her work, but also recognizes the importance of maintaining a life outside of the office. Like many career women, she will soon face the challenges of juggling marriage and family with her high-powered career. She plans to marry in the fall, a change which she says may provide the impetus for her to

Diversity newsletter to debut

ST. PETERSBURG -- A national newsletter on media diversity is to debut this month.

Multicultural Link will chronicle the efforts of the nation's newspapers, television stations, radio stations and magazines to improve coverage of minorities as well as employment, promotion and retention of minority journalists, said Mary Esther Bullard-Johnson, the editor and publisher.

The newsletter is an outreach effort of *Who's What and Where* Publishing and Consulting Services, operated by Bullard-Johnson and her husband, Ben Johnson. The company has published two editions of *Who's What and Where*, an directory and reference book on the nation's minority journalists.

"Industry leaders have set a target of achieving news staff diversity in the 2000, just 10 scant years from now," said Bullard-Johnson. All manner
Con't on next page

seek a new direction in her professional life.

"I'm lucky because my future husband is a sports reporter so he understands the rhythms of my job and career just as I understand his," she said. She looks forward to starting a family and is presently contemplating ways of rearranging her life to accommodate the demands of motherhood.

Pollard, 39, has had a career that journalists many years her senior only dream of. Looking back, she says she's thrilled.

"Everyone has that hard deadline, when for whatever reason, writing is difficult," she said. "But I can't think of anything I'd rather do. I guess you could say I'm just wedded to newspapering."

The writer, a journalism graduate student at the University of Southern California, is a 1990 NABJ scholarship winner.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Jobline

WHYY-12 is looking for a **news production assistant** for the news at 5:30 at its Delaware broadcast center. Responsibilities: Monitoring scanners and two-way radios, operating teleprompter, coordinating pre-production requests and providing off-air production assistance as needed. Job requires basic understanding of television production and news reporting. Send resume to Maureen Pilla, personnel associate, WHYY Inc., 150 North Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. ...WXYZ-TV Detroit is looking for a **news writer** with two to three years experience producing newscasts and writing news stories. Contact Walter Kraft, assistant news director, (313) 827-9402. ... WJBK-TV Detroit, has these openings: assignment editor and **producer of special projects**. For the assignment editor position contact Nelson Burg, managing editor, (313) 557-2000. For

the producer opening, call Tom Bell, executive director (313) 552-5264 or 5146. ... *The Cape Cod Times* is looking for **reporters**. Entry-level *The New York Times* **copy editing** training program resumes this fall. Send a resume and cover letter to William Connolly, senior editor, *The New York Times*, 229 W. 43 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. ... *Planned Parenthood* is looking for a **media relations coordinator**. Requirements: at least five years media or public relations experience, excellent writing, interpersonal communications and organizational skills. Send resumes to Larry Beers (personnel department) and Carole Florman (media relations department) at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 810 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10019. ... National Public Radio (NPR) has these openings: **Associate Editor** (part-time) *Weekend Edition*; **Senior Editor**, Washington; **Producer, Morning Edition**; **Business Reporter**, and **Associate Producer**, *Performance Today*. Send resume to Personnel Department, National Public Radio, 2025 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

B.A.N. People

Philadelphia Inquirer city hall bureau reporter **Idris Michael Diaz**, '83, left June 24 for two months in Gambia and Senegal. He will be with Global Exchange and Study Associates and he will supervise college students who will be performing community service projects. ... New York *Daily News* reporter **Robert Fleming**, '81, won a Revson Fellowship

from the Revson Foundation. The nine-month fellowship begins in September. Fleming plans to study urban policy ... What some '90 graduates are doing: **Don Scott** is a reporter this summer at the *Delaware County* (Pa.) *Times*; **Sara Lomax** is an intern at *The Miami Herald*; **Robin Guess** is an intern at the *San Jose Mercury News*; **Jovita Moore** is on an NBC Fellowship; **Carol Cary** is reporting for *The Bergen Record*; **Emil Wilbekin** is with *Metropolitan Home* magazine in New York, and **Stephanie Esters** is a *Newsweek* intern ... **A'Lelia Bundles**, '76, is a producer at ABC News in Washington, D.C. She left NBC News in June 1989 and asked ABC to defer her starting date until September so that she could research a biography she is writing on Madam C.J. Walker. The biography is for the Chelsea House Publisher's series on black Americans for the young-adult market. At ABC, Bundles is Carole Simpson's producer on most of her "American Agenda" pieces for "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings." ... **Sabrina McFarlane**, '86, is now an entertainment reporter for *People* magazine. For the past couple years she worked as a writer/researcher for *US* magazine. Before magazine journalism she was Charlayne Hunter-Gault's assistant at the "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour." ... "A Dad Meets His Determined Son" (*Philadelphia Daily News*, 6/21) by columnist **Linda Wright Moore**, '73, was a followup piece that helped unite a father with the 18-year-old son he had never seen. Kevin Jones, the Philadelphia schoolboy, had



Idris Michael Diaz

been living on his own since age 16 and he worked as many as four jobs while excelling in school. He graduated from high school last month ... **Three '80** classmates were contributors to this month's *Essence*. In "Mo' Better Spike" **Jill Nelson** interviewed filmmaker Spike Lee regarding his fourth major film (which opens this month). She also examined whether provocateur Lee is shaking things up again, uncovering or creating a new African-American aesthetic. "JESSE," fiction by **Rosemarie Robotham**, sets two schoolgirls and a dark mystery in the tropical paradise Jamaica, the author's birthplace ... **David Thigpen** profiled actor Charles Dutton (of the August Wilson plays "The Piano Lesson," and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," and the film "Q&A.") ... In this month's *Emerge*, Dallas writer **Toni Yvonne Joseph**, '86, wrote about Toni Luckett, student and community activist, who became student body president of the University of Texas ("A new kind of student leader.)

Multicultural/Cont

of projects and efforts have been launched to reach the goal -- for newspapers, for TV stations, for magazines, for radio stations. But still the goal seems elusive. And the objective is a moving target as the percentage of minorities continues to grow. "Multicultural Link" is designed to keep track of the media's efforts. Media managers are so accustomed to being the watchdogs for others. On the critical issue of diversity, *Multicultural Link* will be the watchdog of the media."

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Convention

Continued

minority employees formed a Minority Journalists Caucus and demanded changes.

Chris Morris, who is now city editor but previously held Garcia's job, said Garcia met with less resistance because of a new atmosphere at *The Herald*. "It's all part of our efforts to attract and keep and promote minority staff members," Morris said.

The Detroit Free Press, which has long had a strong minority recruitment program, is also offering more convention support to its NABJ members this year. Since 1986, the newspaper has paid the full expenses of no more than two people each year -- and nothing more -- according to Managing Editor Bob Magruder.

This year, *The Free Press* is sending three recruiters plus is paying the full registration for anybody that wants to go, said Magruder.

'Two factors have made NABJ conventions somewhat impervious to economic hard times.'

This year's generosity partly reflects a better economic situation due to the Joint Operating Agreement the newspaper entered with the *Detroit News*, but also a renewed commitment to minorities, he said.

"Because of the difficult situation we were in for such a long time," Magruder said, "we want to show minorities that *The Free Press* is back in business and looking for their services."

Detroit boycott

Continued

and critically in a majority black city?

For example, Chuck Stokes, WXYZ-TV editorial/public affairs director, said he thinks the boycott is not directed at him, individually, but at the station as a whole.

But Stokes also said boycott members have told him "that they feel, because you are black (and) a journalist, that we should be sensitive more so to the black community, because we've been exposed to black life in America."

Likewise, Connie Prater, president of the Detroit Chapter of NABJ and *Free Press* city-county bureau reporter, said she feels the ire of boycotters "is being levied at the top executives and the editorial board of the paper, more so than staff members and reporters."

But Prater also said she plays a continuing juggling act while doing her job. "I feel I'm in the middle all the time," she said.

"In my position, trying to accurately report on a city that does have problems, I feel pressure from the administration and the community not to report stories that may reflect negatively on a city, while battling with my own journalistic instincts to determine what's news."

The boycott has little effect on the way Val Clark, a WXYZ reporter, said she approaches her job.

"No one has said they will not talk to me on a story," Clark said.

While declining to comment on the validity of boycott claims, Clark did say they may be missing a chance at influencing her station and the *Free Press* by refusing to discuss issues with executives at both outlets.

"I feel they may have some legitimate concerns" she said. "But I also feel that they should take the opportunity afforded them by the station and the paper to openly discuss these concerns."

"In South Africa, if Mandela doesn't talk to (President

F.W.) DeKlerk, nothing really changes."

Regarding subscriptions and viewers, the boycott reportedly has had minimal effect.

Since the boycott began, about 160 people have cited it as the reason for cancelling subscriptions to the *Free Press*, said Alan Lenhoff, director of special projects for the Detroit Newspaper agency. As of March 31, the *Free Press* average circulation (Monday through Friday) was 639,767 since the joint operating agreement began Nov. 27, Lenhoff said.

"We don't know of any advertisers who have left because of this," he said.

Tom Griesdorn, WXYZ vice president and general manager, said he received forms printed in the *Michigan Chronicle* where readers voiced objection to Channel 7.

But he also stated that Arbitration (Arbitron) ratings indicated viewing was up in May over May 1989 for the 5, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts.

Nearly everyone interviewed said that if nothing else, the boycott brought discussion among news executives about what's being covered and the effect it might have.

Since the boycott began, "I don't think we really do that much different," Stokes said, "but it may have made us put our antennas up a little higher."

From the Detroit Chapter of NABJ Sentinel. The writer is a Free Press reporter.

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NABJ Convention Issue

Jobline,
People, 2-3

Volume X, Number 9

September 1990

The first West Coast convention succeeds, NABJ shows maturity

By Dan Holly

LOS ANGELES -- The verdict on the 1990 convention of the National Association of Black Journalists: Good speakers and panelists, well-organized for the

most part, but definitely not cozy.

The five-day event at the Century Plaza Hotel was the first convention held on the West Coast, but the distance did not deter.

More than 1,720 delegates came. They had to be spread out among three hotels, connected by shuttle bus service.

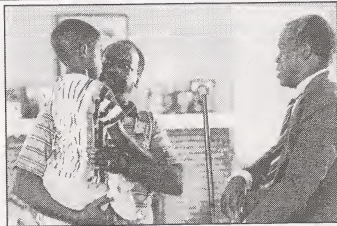
The theme was: "Words and Images, Challenges for the Future."

Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the speaker at the W.E.B. DuBois Luncheon, was among those opining on the nature of the challenge facing African-American journalists.

"As reporters, first and foremost you must put your skills to the understanding of what are the needs of your community," Wilder said. "But I know you appreciate the importance of not covering those issues to the exclusion of other issues that affect all of society."

African-American journalists must help focus public attention on issues that affect everybody, such as pollution, the budget deficit, and tax dollars used to bail out savings and loan institutions, Wilder said. "Think of the inner-city schools that could have been helped with that money."

Form a partnership with government to help bring down health costs and end the "health care deficit" that hits minorities particularly hard, said banquet speaker Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary.



NABJers caught a sneak preview of the Charles Burnett film "To Sleep With Anger." From left, Gideon (Paul Butler) and Harry

Mention (Danny Glover) are old friends reunited. Harry brings the superstitions of the old south to life in Central Los Angeles.

Sullivan urged NABJ members to help change behavior that drives up health care costs, such as drinking, taking drugs, and not wearing seat belts.

"If the paper says it and repeats it and illuminates it and it is reported by television anchors," Sullivan said, "that will impart a sense of urgency to it, ... change becomes reality rather than hope."

A general session called "From Booker T. to Jesse: Where Does Black Political Leadership Go From Here?" focused on the challenges ahead for African-American elected officials and journalists. On the panel were a journalist, an academic and a few politicians, notably Jesse Jackson.

Poverty has not gone down in communities represented by African-American elected officials, said Joseph Perkins, columnist for the *San Diego Union*.

"I think it is incumbent upon black journalists to illuminate that point." Added Harvard professor Linda F. Williams: "Some of our black politicians really begin to seem as if they're

in politics for their own political gain."

But Jackson turned the spotlight around. Despite an increase in the number of black reporters and editors, he said, the media still fails to report on African-Americans fairly and thoroughly.

If you tell that to an African-American reporter, Jackson said, the response will be: "Yeah, but we've got white editors and white publishers."

African-American journalists and politicians "are in the same predicament," Jackson said. "Don't do black elected officials any special favors. Just write about us as you look in the mirror."

"I believe you ought to write about whatever you believe is newsworthy," said Willie Brown, speaker of the California assembly. But he urged NABJ members to "struggle to keep things in perspective."

White journalists, Brown said, have sometimes made the race of Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry the issue in their stories on his arrest for cocaine

Continued on back page

NABJ facts

- Last year NABJ topped \$1 million in revenues and support for the first time in its 15-year history.

- According to the annual report, revenues increased largely because of convention income, memberships and interest income from investments. The increase was up 52 percent from the previous year.

- Sixty-eight percent of revenues were related to the national convention; 12 percent of revenues were from membership dues. NABJ's biggest expenses were for the convention (55 percent of the budget) and for personnel and office operations (19 and 9 percent respectively.)

- Of nearly 2,000 members, 64 percent are women and 36 percent are men.

- Thirty-eight percent of the membership are full-time print journalists; 20 percent are broadcast journalists; associate members comprise 13 percent and students are nearly 26 percent. Three percent of the membership are labeled "other."

- NABJ now has 36 professional chapters.

- The 1991 convention will be in Kansas City, followed by Detroit (1992), Houston (1993) and Atlanta (1994).

Young NABJers and an old pro inspire

LOS ANGELES -- The convention's highlight of highlights was watching the achievements of our young NABJers, the African-American journalists who will lead in the 21st century.

My eyes welled up with tears when 18 interns and 10 scholarship recipients took a bow at the gala awards program. Only five years ago NABJ was struggling to provide three scholarships and three internships.

It was a stroke of genius to have the kids produce the first daily convention newspaper, the *Monitor*, and a daily 15-minute TV newscast, broadcast closed circuit in the hotel. It was a pleasure to awaken Saturday morning and watch a professional-looking broadcast recapping some events that I missed because of schedule conflicts.

What struck me about the *Monitor* and NABJ-TV news was this: Our college-age students were getting daily hands-on experience from our best African-American veterans. Like thousands of white

Convention observations Wayne J. Dawkins

youngsters who are accustomed to being steeped in the trade by their parents and other mentors, we were doing some of the same things on a very sophisticated level.

I savored the notion that the generation following us would assume that they should be running and guiding our craft, not hesitating or wondering whether they belong.

Temple University senior Erika Taylor, a scholarship winner, felt weary from producing the convention report, and she complained to me gently.

I assured her that many years from now she'll reflect on the week of Aug. 1-5 as some of the most exciting times of her life.

* * *

CANTANKEROUS and colorful, Chicago *Sun-Times* columnist Vernon Jarrett wasn't satisfied to simply accept our tribute, the NABJ Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jarrett's condition for acceptance was to offer a treat, then a challenge.

Joining him at the podium were two outstanding 16-year-old science students. One boy developed a theory for combating viral infection in space. The other boy also developed a project that was to be tested by NASA.

While hundreds of delegates felt full of pride, Jarrett scolded us for missing such incredible success stories. For a couple of hours, awards program video clips mostly depicted black youth as pathological misfits.

We must sound the alarms when crime and despair debilitate African-American communities. But to overlook or even decline

to dig out stories about black children achieving and excelling, often against incredible odds, could mean we've succumbed to the same negative stereotypes that have been perpetuated for generations.

* * *

CONVENTION GOOFS: "The Blacks in Hollywood" panel was too large.

When I walked into the packed assembly, I saw 10 people at the table. I was alarmed by the massive army of talking heads and I bolted from the room. Four panelists and a moderator would have been better.

At the awards program, Louisville, Ky., TV journalist Lauretta Harris was designated to accept the awards for winners who didn't show up. After her third trip down the aisle, what looked like a well-intended idea to speed the program along looked awkward and tedious for Harris and for the hosts.

I would have preferred to have seen the regional directors accept the awards for the no-shows. Since they know their turf they could even say a few words about the winners that might have entertained and informed.

Friday banquet speaker Louis Sullivan bombed. Although our journalistic instinct was to reserve a level of detachment, many delegates had been offended that the Health and Human Services secretary was called "a disgrace to his race" by Pete Stark, D-Calif., a white liberal, because Sullivan's view of health service doesn't follow liberal orthodoxy.

Sullivan forgot he was preaching to the choir. After attacking Stark at least four times during his address, people were nodding in their chairs or walking out of the grand ballroom, eager for the "Tribute to Robin Harris" to get rolling. I would have liked to have heard a credible defense of Sullivan's resistance to national health insurance, but it was not forthcoming that night.

Jobline

Business Week's Washington bureau is looking for a correspondent, an aggressive reporter with superior writing and analytical skills to cover Congress and politics. Salary is flexible. Contact Stan Crook,

News Editor, *Business Week*, Suite 1200, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Or call (202) 463-1626. ... WCPN-FM, Cleveland Public Radio is looking for an executive producer for Jazz. Send resume with cover letter, references and tape to: Executive Producer, Jazz, Cleveland Public Radio, 3100 Chester Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. ... Pacifica Radio News in Washington, D.C. is looking for a managing editor. Duties include: Assigning stories to Pacifica reporters and stringers; editing audio segments for the daily newscast; conducting interviews, supervising on-air segments, writing copy. Salary: \$27,000 plus benefits. Pacifica is also looking for an experienced reporter. The position is general assignment with a special emphasis on

coverage of Capitol Hill. Salary: \$22,000. Send resume, cover letter and tape to: Pacifica Radio, attention: Mary Tilson, 2207 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA. 94704. ... The ecumenical journal *Christianity and Crisis* is looking for a managing editor to write, edit, manage and think ethically. Send letter, resume, salary requirements and writing samples to C & C, 537 W. 121 St., New York, N.Y. 10027. ... *Sojourners* magazine is looking for an assistant editor. Duties: Write features, editorials and investigative pieces. Copy editing and administrative skills needed for production and processing of solicited articles. Send letter, resume and writing samples to Karen Latea, managing editor, *Sojourners*, Box 29272, Washington, D.C. 20017. ... *The Village Voice* is looking for a senior editor for its Voice Literary Supplement (VLS). Looking for a part-time editor to

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assign and line-edit book reviews and literary essays. Minimum two years' relevant experience required. Send resume, writing and editing samples and a brief analysis of *VLS* to M. Mark, *The Village Voice*, 842 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003. ... Writers and editors needed for brief biographies of children. Full- or part-time. Send resume to Publisher, 305 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10164.

B.A.N. People

David Peterkin, '82, is now Northeast bureau chief for ABC News in New York after a long stint as a producer for WYNY-TV (FOX) ...

Congratulations to newlyweds **David J. Dent**, '82, and **Valerie Lynn Tokunbo**. They married July 7 in Brentwood, Tenn. Dent, a TV reporter for WKRN-TV (ABC) Nashville, was an NABJ Awards runner-up for "Brothers in Arms"

his report on why so many young African-American men were choosing a military career. He's leaving the station to be a visiting journalism professor this fall at New York University. His wife will be studying at Columbia Law School. ... **Betty Winston Baye**, '80, chairwoman of the NABJ special awards committee

introduced the internship and scholarship winners. She begins her Neiman Fellowship at Harvard this month. ... **Laura Coverson**, '82, will be a Benton Fellow this year in

Chicago. ... **Jennie M. Bourne**, '86 has been producing and anchoring the news at New York's WBAL/Pacifica Radio. She also has a health show on WBSL-FM

... **Jocelyn Stewart**, '89, is a reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*. ... Another *Los Angeles Times* writer, **Itabari Njeri**, '78, was an NABJ award winner for her feature on the new multicultural reality. During the convention the Black Journalists Association of Southern California sold copies of her book "*Every Goodbye Ain't Gone -- Family Portraits and Personal Escapades*." ...

Lynne Duke, '85, one of the panelists for "The New South Africa" session, spent two months with six Sowetan families and wrote about their lives in a four-part series in *The Washington Post* last June. Classmate **Nicholas Gouede**,

'85, of UNICEF was also a panelist ... **Fred Johnson**, '80, is living the challenging life of a Hollywood screenwriter. He was a longtime member of the "227" staff. Now that the show has ended he is chasing other projects. He hope to hear great things from him soon. ... *Milwaukee Journal* reporter **Jacquelyn Gray**, '86, is now covering the fashion beat. ...

Cheryl Devall, '82, Chicago-based correspondent for National Public Radio, was an NABJ award winner. She was a member of a team that produced the series "AIDS in Black America." ... *The New York Times*' **Lena Williams**, '73 was one of the professional editors and advisers for *The NABJ Monitor*, the daily student convention newspaper.



David J. Dent, '82, and Valerie Lynn Tokunbo



David Peterkin, '82, Rhoda McKinney, '86



Fred Johnson and Betty Winston Baye, both '80

Health book a hit

This month *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter **Evelyn C. White**, '85, begins a year-long mid-career fellowship at the Harvard's JFK School of Government.

Evelyn has more good news. She told us: "*The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves*" is selling fantastically.

"The first printing of 10,000 is sold out. My publisher is going back to press with another run of 7,500 within weeks. ... I'm happy to have the opportunity to help tell our stories." The book is published by *The Seal Press*, 3131 Western Ave., Seattle, Wa. 98121. Copies are \$14.95 plus \$2 shipping.

Don't keep it to yourself . . .

Send us your announcements, comments and story ideas.

The 15th black journalists' convention scored 1,720

Continued from front page

possession.

"Barry didn't become a crack user because he was black," Brown said.

Other general sessions included:

- "Blacks in Hollywood" featuring Keenan Ivory Wayans of the hit TV show "In Living Color."
- "The African American Male: Surviving in America."
- "Blacks in the New Multicultural America."
- "The New South Africa."

The convention had the usual social functions, notably a tour and reception of Universal Studios. The tour bus got caught in an avalanche, a bridge collapse and an earthquake. All simulated, of course.

The convention had its usual share of problems. The awards ceremony went on too long -- again. It ended at 12:45 a.m., after many in the audience had drifted away. And the gospel brunch ran out of food -- again.

But convention goers said the problems, in general, were less than in previous years.

"This was a well-planned conference," said Kuae Noel Kelch, a producer with King World Productions in New York. "Obviously, they learned from past mistakes."

"Don't do black elected officials any special favors. Just write about us as you look in the mirror."

- Jesse Jackson

Phyllis Fair, attending from Hamlet, N.C., particularly liked the Early Bird workshops, which allowed her to catch some workshops yet not miss out on the Job Fair and other activities.

Outgoing NABJ Executive Director Carl Morris said the 1990 Convention was the best organized yet because it was the first time staff from the national

office was heavily involved in the basics.

(After three years of service, Morris retires from his post effective next month. Linda K. Edwards, a 10-year NABJ member who is broadcast news manager for the Chemical Manufacturers Association in Washington, D.C., was hired as Morris' successor.)

"We have learned over the years, and it was much smoother. ... There was more professionalism," Morris said.

But the days of the one-hotel conventions are pretty much over, since few cities have hotels big enough to hold everything under one roof, Morris said. The only such city among the convention sites planned for the next four years: Detroit in 1992.

Blame that on progress, if you

will," Morris said.

"This is growing so rapidly that you're not going to have the same cozy feeling you had four or five years ago."

Miami Herald reporter Olympia Ross contributed to this report.



Scholarships for sophs
PRINCETON, N.J. -- African-American, Native American, Asian American and Hispanic sophomores who worked this summer as daily newspaper reporters can still apply to the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's 1990 Minority Reporting Intern Scholarship Competition. All applications must be postmarked no later than **Sept. 3**.

Twenty scholarships for \$1,000 each will be awarded to students who are entering their junior year. Applications can be obtained from: Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, P.O. Box 300, Princeton, N.J. 08543-0300. Or call (609) 452-2820.



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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

NBA Beat: Datelines, page 2

Volume X, Number 10

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

October 1990



George Philip Sheer sells the J-school to applicants

ASNE job fairs

Newsroom opportunities for students

ASNE (American Society of Newspaper Editors) is sponsoring 12 regional Minorities Job fairs across the country this fall through early 1991.*

The job fairs bring prospective minority journalists and editors together to interview for entry-level positions and summer internships.

About 2,000 students, journalists, educators and editors attended 1989-90 conferences.

Job fairs are intended mainly for college juniors and seniors seeking internships and entry-level jobs.

But experienced minority journalists interested in immediate openings are also welcome to attend. Applicants should bring six copies of their resume and writing samples. To sign up contact Neil Foote, ASNE, P.O. Box 17004, Washington, D.C. 20041. (703-648-1146.)

These are the conference dates and host newspapers:

Louisville, Ky. (*The Courier-Journal*) Oct. 10-11; Detroit (*Detroit News*) Oct. 11-13; Pittsburgh (*The Post-Gazette*) Nov. 1-3; Miami (*Miami Herald*) Nov. 8-10; New Haven, Conn. (*The Register*) Nov. 8-9; Fort Worth (*The Star Telegram*) Nov. 16-17; Portland, Ore. (*The Oregonian*) Nov. 29-30; Kansas City, Mo. (*The Star and Times*) Nov. 29-Dec. 1; San Jose, Calif. (*The Mercury News*) Dec. 6-7; El Paso, Texas (*The Herald-Post*) Jan. 31 to Feb. 2; Baltimore (*The Sun*) Feb. 14-16, and Memphis, Tenn. (*The Commercial Appeal*) Feb. 21-23.

* The Task Force on Minorities in the Newspaper Business and the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) are also sponsors.

Back to J-school: 3 of 4 applicants attend Columbia

By Wayne J. Dawkins
Three out of four students admitted to the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism enrolled for the 1990-91 school year, J-school officials said. Thirty-one people representing 17-percent of the U.S. students are minorities.

Black, Latino and Asian American student enrollment was lower than the 75-percent

of all accepted applicants who enrolled.

Based on figures supplied by George Philip Sheer, associate director of admissions, less than 60 percent of minority students accepted enrolled.

The current class has 191 students, 177 from the United States and 14 international members. Last year there were 31 minority students in a 183-member class.

Classes began Sept. 10. Tuition is \$14,400, up about 4 percent from the previous year.

experience. Many of the visitors learned about Columbia from veteran journalists who are graduates of the school, said Sheer. The visitors were about an even mix of people favoring print or broadcast careers (last year most applicants favored print journalism.)

After the New York NABJ convention in 1989, 10 people returned completed applications. Three were accepted to this year's class. Sheer is waiting to see how many visitors this year return applications.

One of the visitors in Los Angeles inquired about teaching at the J-school. Sheer said the resume was forwarded to Dean Joan Konner. Last year five people inquired about teaching opportunities at the J-school.

Columbia J-school this year also recruited at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists convention (April)

and the Asian American Journalists Association convention (August). The school is also scheduled to make recruiting trips this fall to Howard University, the Atlanta University consortium (Spelman, Morehouse, et al) and to the American Society of Newspaper Editors Regional job fair in New Haven, Conn.

Sheer said the school is to add these recruiting stops this school year: Chicago, Portland, Ore., Seattle and Austin, Texas.

Recruiting effort

For the second year in a row the J-school operated a recruiting booth at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in August. George Philip Sheer said about 70 people inquired about graduate education in Los Angeles. Most of the visitors were either undergraduates who had had journalism internships or graduates with some journalism

Fast-break pace of covering the N.J. Nets

By Rob Parker

Life as a sports writer at the New York *Daily News* is fast-paced, fun, pressure-filled and rewarding.

The New York Times might be the paper of record for news, but when it comes to sports, the *Daily News* is the bible for more than 1.3 million readers a day. Most New Yorkers buy the paper for its sports coverage.

I've been writing sports for the *Daily News* since June 1986. Before that, I wrote for *The Times Leader* in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and at the *Greenwich Time/The Advocate* (Stamford, Conn.).

THIS MONTH starts my fourth season on the New Jersey Nets beat. Despite being the NBA's worst team, I've enjoyed covering them.

The toughest part is probably trying to keep a straight face while sitting on press row game after game as they bounce the ball out of bounds off their feet, throw bad passes in the first row of the stands and embarrass themselves into making it on TV sportscaster Warner Wolf's "Plays of the Month."



Rob Parker

Datelines

East Rutherford, N.J.

Nevertheless, the NBA beat is filled with many deadlines, flights and Marriott points. The season starts in October with training camp and ends with the NBA finals and the NBA draft in late June.

So for nine straight months, I'm working six or seven days a week. No weekends or regular days off.

On a normal game day, I go to the Meadowlands Arena (in East Rutherford, N.J.) for a shootaround at about 10 a.m. After the hour-long, low-key

workout, I'll interview some players and write an early story.

That story will appear in the early editions of the *Daily News* the next day. The 500-word story is due by 6 p.m.

Then right as the game starts at 7:30 p.m., I'm writing what is called a running story. This story basically gives you the play-by-play of the game with an AP lead. The deadline for this story, which will be the same length of the early story and replace it in later editions, is due right as the game ends.

Then I go into the locker room to figure out what it all means and do what we call a "writethru." This story will appear in the "Sports Final" edition with quotes.

On non-game days, I usually go to the Nets' two-hour practice and get quotes for the next game's early story and do a "scouting report" with stats and information about the Nets' next opponent. I almost never have to write an off-day story unless news breaks.

But the job becomes difficult when you have to come down on a player or the coach. In January 1989, I had to expose forward

Walter Berry as a bust. The former 1986 College Player of the Year played no defense and had lost his scoring touch.

After being benched, Berry started saying he couldn't play because his ankle hurt. And to make matters worse, his teammates started doubting his injuries.

He was also seen out dancing at a New York disco during the time of his ankle injury. All of this went in my story, which had the headline: "Walter Playing Like a Rotten Berry."

AS YOU can imagine, Berry was not happy when the story came out. In fact, he waited at the locker room door in Philadelphia for me. When I got there he asked why am I "writing b.s. about him?"

What I wrote was true. Two weeks later, Berry was cut from the team.

And in the era of tough-to-deal-with players, it's great to know your career lasts longer than theirs.

The writer is a 1988 Columbia journalism graduate.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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Senior Editor

Daniel Holly
Esther Iverem
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Department of Journalism

JOURNALISM: The University of Arkansas at Little Rock Department of Journalism seeks a faculty member with the expertise and ability to teach skills courses in its news-editorial sequence as well as some graduate courses. This is a tenure-track position at the assistant or associate level starting in August 1991. The position requires a doctorate with appropriate professional experience. Applicants who will complete their doctoral work by May 1992 also will be considered. The department has ACEJMC accreditation and is located in the state's media center.

Send a resume, three names of references and a transcript to Search Committee Chair, Department of Journalism, UALR, 2801 S. University Ave., Little Rock, Ark. 72204. The application review process will start immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applications will be subject to inspection under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and actively seeks the candidacy of minorities and women.

Jobline

WHYY TV-12 and 91 FM, Philadelphia, has these openings:
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radio. Produce a weekly one hour environmental affairs program. Develop and prepare topics for broadcast, prepare interviews and coordinate interview segments, write and edit scripts and establish links with the local environmental community. This is a temporary project available through Jan. 31, 1991. For both openings, send resume to Maureen Pilla, personnel associate, WHYY, Inc., 150 N. Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

B.A.N. People

Free-lance writer **Bridgett M. Davis, '86**, profiled newcomer Cynda Williams, who played aspiring jazz singer Clarke Bentancourt in Spike Lee's "Mo' Better Blues" (we saw the article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* Aug. 12). Davis asked the 24-year-old actress about a mini-controversy:

Talk of raging male chauvinism on the set and a fight with leading man Denzel Washington, who plays jazzman Bleek Gilliam and Clarke's love interest. "Actors are going to argue," Williams told Davis. "They're going to talk like human beings and disagree."

That's what makes them good. ... I'm just a bull-headed woman. I don't care that I haven't been in a lot of movies. I'm still an experienced actress, and I think everybody involved should have a say." Furthermore, Davis began last month as an assistant professor at Baruch College (N.Y.), teaching English and Journalism ... and some mo' better news: Classmate Lolis Eric Elie wrote "Jazz Thing," one of the songs from the motion picture soundtrack. He is in his second year of a creative writing program at the University of



Leonard J. Hollie

Virginia ... Lawrence Aaron, '70, moves to day city editor of *Gannett Westchester-Rockland Newspapers* from assistant city editor at the Ocala (Fla.) *Star Banner*. ... **Leonard J. Hollie, '89**, moves to financial reporter for *Knight Ridder Financial News* on Wall Street, from Crain Communications'

Continued on next page

Copy Editor

The Anchorage Daily News is looking for a talented copy editor to be a leader in producing our main news sections. This job not only requires good editing and headline skills but also ability in the use of color, graphics and design. A minimum of five years' daily editing experience is required. Send resume, work samples and reference list to:

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Dual roles: D. Addams as union executive and editor

R. David Addams, '80, wanted to summarize what he had been doing for the past decade.

We didn't have a chance to profile him in our 10th anniversary issue (July) so we're doing it now: "After J-school, I worked for the UAW (United Auto Workers) as a law clerk; then the NCBL (National Conference of Black Lawyers) as a law clerk; then Goodman, Eden, Millender et al as an attorney in Detroit. "Then, back to New York to NCBL as associate

director and City College as a Revson Fellow at the Urban Legal Studies Program.

"I've been in my current position, executive director of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, for 3 1/2 years.

"This involves organizing legal aid lawyers, negotiating and enforcing their contract and publishing and editing a newsletter, which won the Local Union Press Association award for general excellence.

"The most important thing I've learned is to know thyself."

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3rd minority journalists summit in Atlanta

The third joint meeting of the executive boards of the four leading minority journalism associations is scheduled Sat. Oct. 6 in Atlanta.

The officers are to tour facilities around the city in preparation for the 1994 joint convention of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) and Native American Press Association (NAPA).

The first summit of minority journalism boards was held in 1986 in Philadelphia with NABJ and NAHJ, then in 1988 in Baltimore with the four boards. The organizations met to discuss common interests such as efforts to increase racial and cultural diversity in American journalism.

On Oct. 5 and 7, the NABJ board will conduct its own



business.

It is to be the first board

meeting for executive director Linda K. Edwards. She was hired at the August national convention in Los Angeles.

The 17-member board is expected to tie up loose ends

from the summer convention and receive a preliminary report on the 1991 Kansas City convention.

The meetings are at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel.

Alumnae assess 'Blackman's Guide'

Continued from previous page

Investment Age. Hollie is returning to his old company. Before J-school he was a reporter with the Knight Ridder-owned *Wichita Eagle-Beacon* for four years.

Toni Y. Joseph, '86, of *The Dallas Morning News*, and Philadelphia *Daily News* columnist Linda Wright Moore, '73, assessed *The Blackman's Guide to Understanding the Blackwoman*, by Shahrazad Ali. The book has generated the level of anger, divisiveness and debate witnessed when "The Color Purple" was released as a major motion

picture five years ago. On Aug. 16, Moore wrote: "Her book is the kind of wildly subjective and pseudo-scientific effort to define the 'trouble' with black folks" that crops up every few years. It infuriates some blacks

and intrigues mainstream news media, which love stereotypical depictions of black people,

especially if they inspire us to fume at each other on national television. That's entertainment. And it sells books." Joseph reported Aug. 15 that "Whatever the criticisms, the \$10 book has created a small-scale economy, Ms. Ali says. She is employing an African-American printer and exclusively distributing the book to African-American retail establishments. As of Aug. 3, more than 243,000 copies had been sold." One of the most incendiary passages in the book is Ali's recommendation that

black men giving black women "a sound, open-handed smack in the mouth" when they are disrespectful.

Ali's book can be dealt with three ways, answers Moore: • Find a 'Blackman,' ask him to punch you in the mouth up front to show you're sincere, then lie prostrate at his feet and wait for orders; • dismiss the 'Blackman's Guide' as the ramblings of a bright woman more adept at marketing herself than solving the problems of African-Americans; • Go out and buy the book -- and keep a pretty smile on Shahrazad Ali's face."

J-alumni committee seat available

The Columbia Journalism Alumni Association executive committee is looking to fill an opening on its board.

The committee is interested in a recent graduate (within the last five years), preferably with

newspaper experience.

Committee members plan the fall and spring alumni meetings and other events.

Contact Jerome Zukosky, president, Columbia Journalism Alumni Association, New York, N.Y. 10027.

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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

Kicking the habit, page 3

Volume X, Number 11

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

November 1990

Fall meeting

Columbia Journalism Alumni Association

'Media to New York: Drop dead?'

Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the McGraw-Hill auditorium, 1221 Avenue of the Americas (at W. 49th Street).

Panelists: Norman Steisel, 1st deputy mayor, City of New York; John Scanlon, senior vice president, Adelman Worldwide (p.r.); Gabe Pressman, '47, WNBC-TV; Jim Dwyer, '80, columnist, *New York Newsday*; Utrice C. Leid, managing editor *The City Sun*; Martin Gottlieb, '68, reporter, *The New York Times*, and Andy Logan, columnist, *The New Yorker*. Moderator: Mary Ann Giordano, '79, J-school professor and *New York Daily News* staff.

Reception follows forum.

NABJ adopts media watch program

Minority journalist associations plan Atlanta '94 convention

By Dan Holly

The National Association of Black Journalists now has 38 professional chapters.

It will have professional development seminars for its members, an adopt-a-prison newspaper program and a five-city media monitoring program.

Those were the new programs adopted at the board of directors meeting Oct. 5-7 in Atlanta.

"Our fall board meeting was very productive," said NABJ President Thomas Morgan. "This board is ending its two-year term with a number of developmental programs in place for the next administration."

The board also met with officers of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the Native American Press Association to continue planning the "unity convention" NABJ will hold with those groups in 1994 in Atlanta.

"It is our belief that this joint conference will provide us with



Thomas Morgan
NABJ president

the forum to show the industry the wealth of talent and numbers to make up these multicultural and multiracial organizations," said Don Flores, president of the NAHJ. "We urge the many media organizations that are standing on the sidelines to join

our efforts to diversify this industry by providing us moral and financial support."

Atlanta has special significance for Native Americans. In 1828, Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee, was told he could not publish his newspaper in Georgia.

"We're coming back to Georgia to give notice that we are here and we are an important part of America's cultural fabric," said Mark Trahan, president of NAPA.

The NABJ board approved the affiliation of the Portland Association of Black Journalists and the Central Florida Association of Black Journalists and Broadcasters, the 37th and 38th professional chapters. The board also approved a new student chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In other action, the board:

- Approved new professional development seminars, such as

Continued on back page

'91 students and J-school alumni compare notes

NEW YORK -- About 25 people attended the third annual get-together for black and Hispanic journalism alumni and students. Lorraine Wilson, '85, hosted the party last month at her apartment in Manhattan.

The crowd was a mix of students fresh from undergraduate school and those who had taken time off after graduation before heading to Columbia. Lisa

Bligen, a 26-year-old from Queens, decided to go the graduate school to sharpen her writing skills after graduating from Fordham University earlier this year. Otis Easter, a 23-year-old from Sacramento, Calif., worked at a news radio station for about a year before deciding to join the class of 1991. "I thought Columbia would give me confidence as a journalist," he said.

Several students have already made plans to form the Columbia University Association of Black Journalists, which they hope will become a longstanding support network.

What words of advice did the alumni offer? Try not to fall victim to "master's thesis hysteria," take advantage of the mentor program, and make those deadlines!

Black Alumni Network
Survey
pullout page

The great Northwest: Datelines, page 2

Comfortable lifestyle and quality journalism

By George B. Smith

When I go home to New York and tell people I work in Portland, Ore., I'm immediately asked "Why?"

To them, Portland is a teeny weeny city in a lily white state somewhere in the western corner of America. While part of that assessment is true, there's more to Portland than that.

It's clean and pretty. The people are very polite and it's generally a safe place to live. It rains frequently (about 150 days a year).

THE CITY is two hours from the mountains and year-round skiing and two hours from the ocean and the picturesque Oregon Coast. In fact, native Portlanders are always willing to explain to me why life here is so much better than in New York. In some respects I'd have to agree.

I came to Portland in 1987 to work as a summer intern at *The Oregonian*. After my year at Columbia J-school and a six-month stint in Los Angeles, I returned to *The Oregonian* as a general assignment reporter in May 1989.

For me, *The Oregonian* was a good place to work. As a GA reporter, you get to do a lot of breaking news and crime-related

Datelines Portland, Ore.

stories. The paper sent me to Philadelphia for a week to work on a story about the House of Umoja -- a 20-year-old program that has been very successful in keeping kids out of gangs (a program Portland is trying to emulate). I went to Spokane, Wash. to work on a profile of a man arrested in the unsolved Green River murders.

The Oregonian's editor, William Hilliard, is black. There are 20 minorities out of 299 people working on the news and editorial staff. And only four of more than 120 reporters are black.

There are no black editors on the city desk. There are two black copy editors. A black news reporter recently moved to sports, making him the only black writer in that department.

Critics say the newspaper is sleepy. But the main problem

with *The Oregonian* may be that there is no daily competition from another newspaper.

The paper pays well and benefits are very good. (salaries for new reporters start in the mid-\$20,000 range. And after five years most are in the \$40,000 range.)

The cost of living is one reason people like it here. You can find an apartment or even rent a house for less than \$500 a month.

I left *The Oregonian* in January to take a job as a television reporter at KATU-TV, the ABC affiliate. Portland's television market (the 27th largest) is more competitive than its newspaper market because there are three network affiliates and an

independent station. The quality is generally good.

If you talk to blacks working at *The Oregonian* and KATU, one topic inevitably comes up: the lack of black people in Oregon. The state's population is less than 2-percent black (about 40,000 in 2 million, with most of them in the Portland area.)

But if you look around, blacks are making their mark in this city. Hilliard has been editor of *The Oregonian* for 15 years. The head of the Oregon Symphony

for the past decade is black. The chairwoman of the Multnomah County Commissioners is black.

Socially, Portland is what you make of it. People complain that Portland is dead. Compared to New York, it is. You won't find an abundance of dance clubs typical of New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. But there are places to go. You won't pay \$8 to \$20 to get into a club. More like \$2 or \$3. You can usually find good jazz and blues bands playing.

THIS YEAR, the Dance Theater of Harlem has performed here along with Anita Baker at the annual Mount Hood Festival of Jazz.

And for the hip-hoppers, Public Enemy swung through late last summer.

Early summer brings the Rose Festival to Portland. That means two weeks of partying on the waterfront of the Willamette River in a carnival-like atmosphere.

If you need a break from Portland, weekend escapes are easy and affordable. San Francisco (an hour by plane) and Seattle (a 30-minute flight or three-hour drive) are within easy reach.

The writer is a 1988 Columbia Journalism graduate.

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Jobline

WHYY-Radio, Philadelphia, is looking for a producer for Earth Talk, a Saturday radio program on environmental affairs. This is a temporary position available through Jan. 31, 1991. Contact WHYY, 150 N. Sixth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. Or call (215) 351-0548.

WSKG-Public Radio, Binghamton, N.Y., is looking for a program manager to

take responsibility for programming and operation of two (soon to be three) public stations in 15 Southern Tier New York counties. Station ranks in the top 15 public radio stations nationwide. Heavy emphasis on local news with three regional bureaus. Five years experience in radio programming and operations required. Send resume, salary requirements and cover letter to Radio Program Manager Search, WSKG, P.O. Box 3000,

Binghamton, N.Y. 13902.

WJBK-TV, Detroit, is looking for a designer/artist to produce news graphics for the early and late evening newscasts. B.A. in design preferred and desktop publishing skills a plus. Contact Mike Radogna, design manager at (313) 557-2000. ...

WBGU-TV, Bowling Green, Ohio, is looking for a director of promotions and public relations. Person would be responsible for a talk show. Contact Sam Ramirez, 100 College Park Office Building, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403. ...

Memory of father, hypnosis used to kick cigarette habit

By Betty Winston Baye
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- I did it for 24 years and had worked my way up to nearly two packs a day.

I did it even though one of my favorite uncles contracted emphysema and eventually died.

I continued to smoke even after my father died of cancer of the lung and throat.

Frankly, I kept smoking because I enjoyed it. Since I never seriously wanted to stop, I never tried.

But earlier this year, something in me said, "Baye, it's time!"

A BIG inducement for me to quit the nasty weed was seeing Sammy Davis Jr. on television a few months before he died. Sammy looked terrible, and his raspy voice -- it was the voice that got me -- reminded me of how my father sounded before he was unable to speak at all.

It was as if my father was calling me from the grave. So without fanfare, I signed up for a group hypnosis session that was advertised in my newspaper, *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Ky.

I paid my \$35, only half expecting positive results. The session lasted about 1 1/2 hours, and I haven't smoked since that day: June 12.

Am I cured? It's impossible to say. I am in a very delicate stage during which many people fall off the wagon.



BUT MY success thus far isn't merely due to my will power, but to the encouragement I've received from many friends and their kids, who've gone nuts with this "just say no" business.

Lots of people dislike smoking, but kids seem to hate it most.

So far, I haven't accrued all the supposed benefits of being a non-smoker. For example, I've gained 15 pounds and I've still got a disgusting smoker's cough.

However, two doctors and several friends who have quit assure me that the cough will eventually go away.

Now, if only someone would assure me that one day soon I'm going to be able to pry my fingers from around the handle of the refrigerator door.

The writer is a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

Health anthology book party in NYC

About 45 people attended a book party Sept. 25 at the Columbia J-school World Room for *The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves*, edited by Evelyn C. White, '85.

The Harlem Writers Guild sponsored the event. Bridgette Davis, '86, one of the book's contributing writers, is a guild member. She attended. (White, who is in a fellowship program at Harvard University, did not attend.)

Another contributor, Faye Wattleton, executive director of Planned Parenthood, was a guest speaker.

The anthology is in its second printing. Davis said about 18,000 copies are in circulation.

The book is published by The Seal Press, 3131 Western Ave., #410, Seattle, Wash. 98121-1028.



Gayle and Michael

B.A.N. People

Maria Odum, '89, is a part-time writing and reporting instructor at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. She is a reporter at *The Atlanta Journal & Constitution*. ...

Reginald A. Stuart, '71, became assistant news editor of White House and foreign policy coverage for the *Knight Ridder* Washington bureau last summer. He switches to the news desk after 22 years of reporting, most recently for the *Philadelphia Daily News* (a *Knight Ridder* paper) and *The New York Times*. ...

Valerie Wilson Wesley, '82, told us that her new role as executive editor of *Essence* Magazine was "challenging," and "pretty exciting." She advanced to the lofty spot on the masthead in September. She has been associated with the magazine for seven years beginning as a contributing editor. The past 2 1/2 years she has been a senior editor. ...

Gayle Pollard, '73, and Michael W. Terry got married Oct. 13 at Notre Dame Chapel on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. More than 200 people attended the event. Many of the well-wishers were NABJers who knew Gayle from her days as a board member or as a journalist at *The Miami Herald*, *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times*. Gayle is an editorial writer at the *Times*. Mike Terry is a sportswriter for the *San Bernardino* (Calif.) *Sun*. The couple will live in Los Angeles.

Letters urged to protest banning of magazine

NEW YORK -- The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) urges journalists to send letters to protest Kenya's banning of the *Nairobi Law Monthly*.

CPJ reports: "On Sept. 28, authorities in Kenya closed the *Nairobi Law Monthly*, the culmination of a steady campaign of harassment against the outspoken magazine and its staff. The banning of the monthly was announced by

Attorney General Matthew Muli in a special supplement to the weekly government gazette. No reason was given for the ban and the magazine's staff and management were never formally notified.

"... Since its founding in 1987, the *Nairobi Law Monthly* has worked to provide Kenyans with news and commentary about human rights issues and the rule of law in their country. Because of the magazine's

willingness to bring controversial issues to the public, its staff has frequently been subject to harassment."

Respectful letters and telexes should be sent to Kenyan authorities urging:

- That the ban on the *Nairobi Law Monthly* be lifted immediately.
- That charges against Gitobu Imanyara be dropped.
- That Imanyara's passport be

returned.

Appeals should be addressed to: His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, Office of the President, Nairobi, Kenya.

Telexes to the president and attorney general can be sent c/o the Office of Foreign Affairs 963 (country code) 22696 or 22003.

For information on CPJ, call (212) 983-5355.

NABJ

Con't from previous page

management techniques, use of computers in investigative reporting, ethics, media monitoring and computer illustration.

- Gave preliminary approval to a pilot program in which NABJ will "adopt" at least three prison newspapers and conduct writing and editorial seminars.
- Raised the amount of scholarship awards from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

- Approved a program to work jointly with other media organizations monitoring media in at least five cities.

- Approved preliminary plans for the 1991 convention.

It will be held July 24-28 in Kansas City, Mo.

Graduate School of Journalism Columbia University

The Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University invites applications and nominations for senior and junior faculty positions in print and broadcast journalism for the 1991-1992 academic year. These one year renewable and tenure-track positions will be filled from the ranks of distinguished professionals with an interest in teaching and research. The school is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and especially encourages applications from minorities and women. Send letter, vita and three references to:

Committee on Faculty Appointments
Graduate School of Journalism
Columbia University
New York, N.Y. 10027

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Survey

Our newsletter improves because of you.
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work hard to make each issue better.

Could you take a minute to complete this survey?
Please return in this self-mailer before **Nov. 30.**

1. What do you read this newsletter for most? **Select two.**

- ☐ Announcements, calendar
- ☐ J-school news
- ☐ Jobline/People
- ☐ NABJ coverage
- ☐ Media industry news
- ☐ Datelines

2. Suggest how this newsletter can better serve you.

3. Any general comments, critique, about the BAN Newsletter
(i.e. format, content, frequency)?

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36-45

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46-55

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Black Alumni Network

Newsletter

Radio waves from Buffalo, page 2

* * Happy holidays * *

Volume X, Number 12

The Source: News, Reviews, Commentary

December 1990

A chill from loss of 'Heat' Commentary

By Cheryl Devall

CHICAGO -- The freshest and most provocative program on National Public Radio (NPR) is one you may never have heard. And by the time you read this, it's pretty certain you never will.

The program HEAT, was a nightly two-hour live mix of public affairs and performance, held together by host John Hockenberry, a public radio veteran with a sharp intellect, a cutting sense of humor and an appreciation for when to just listen.

The program's run lasted from March to October. Its demise had to do with the difficulty of financing new and innovative programming.

NPR development officials said they had a hard time "selling" the show to potential underwriters because of its format, which hinged on the news of the day and included interviews, music, commentary, humor and live literary readings.

An example of the latter: On the night Sammy Davis Jr. died, an actor's presentation of passages from the autobiography *Yes, I Can!* provided surprising insights into the entertainer's need to perform. The reading lasted 15 minutes without interruption -- an unheard of block of time in almost any other medium -- and was absolutely riveting.

HEAT was not always a radiant example of what public radio could do.

From the start the program was understaffed and plagued with technical problems. It attempted to juggle live guests. Can't on back page

Media's failings hurt city

Panelists cite distorted image

By Wayne J. Dawkins
NEW YORK -- The city news media presented a grossly distorted picture of life here and invited some national media to portray New York as a routinely nightmarish place to exist, concluded a panel of journalists and government experts last month.

Furthermore, the New York press often performed ineptly because of a disinclination to include people of color -- half of the city population -- from the total coverage of New York.

The omission was either from laziness, ignorance or racism, many panelists concluded.

"The media has been slow to

reach out to new people," said *New York Newsday* columnist Jim Dwyer, J-80. He was among six panelists at the Columbia Journalism Alumni

'We fouled our own nest.'

Association forum, "Media to New York: Drop Dead?"

About 200 people attended the forum.

"Yes, we've been backward in reacting," said Dwyer, who noted that 33 percent of city residents are foreign born, the largest

influx since the great European emigration of the late 19th century. This time, many of the people are from the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Utrice Leid of *The City Sun*, a black-owned Brooklyn weekly, said the daily news media do not link all people with the system or explain the consequences of bad policies. "I don't see blacks or Latinos drawn into a discussion of the city budget or the Middle East. There's no

recognition of a vibrant community, but instead, a great deal to be feared."

"We fouled our own nest," said NBC-TV reporter Gabe Pressman, J-47. "There has to be some positive things about the city. It (negative coverage) led to the *Time* magazine cover." The fall cover story included this survey question: Do you have to be crazy to live in New York? (52 percent of the respondents said "yes.")

Several speakers said intense, overheated coverage of crime and budget woes during the summer could have been linked to the mood of New Yorkers, stressed out from shrinking services, uncertain employment, signals of an imminent recession and possible war in the Persian Gulf.

Much of the New York press corps. was also on edge because their industry was taut from economic stress: Ad revenues were down at the venerable *New York Times* and the *New York Post* required draconian cuts to keep publishing.

Can't on page 3

Doomed Daily News resisted inevitable

Commentary

CHERRY HILL, N.J. -- For days when I came to work I'd scan the wire desk to keep up with what was happening in New York City, my beloved hometown, and particularly, what was happening with the *Daily News*.

A fight between one union and management broke out, then the other unions including the Newspaper Guild got involved.

Then there was a fight to get the paper out. There were reports of advertisers bailing out, and news dealers refusing to sell the paper because of threats of bodily harm.

When a newsstand in Brooklyn got firebombed, about six blocks from where my mother and youngest brother live, the conflict touched me.

I was touched again. The organization I belong to, the National Association of Black Journalists, was drawn into the ugly fight.

The *Daily News'* editor asked

NABJ was suckered.

NABJ for its membership list to possibly hire replacement journalists.

NABJ offered its list. When the organization was immediately blasted, accused of siding with the management, in 24-hours it rescinded the paper's request.

My observation to colleague: How ironic.

The newspaper for decades stridently refused to hire more than token numbers of minority

Can't on back page

She can go home again, to Buffalo, NY

By Toni Randolph

I had mixed feelings about returning home to Buffalo to become news director at WBFO-FM. It wasn't that I didn't think the job was a good one. I just wanted to go somewhere, anywhere else than home.

But moving back to Buffalo has turned out to be a fantastic move.

As news director, I draw up our news agenda. I plan special events such as election coverage and special series, for example a Black History Month series last February. Most recently I organized our first live community forum called "The Prejudice Puzzle," which we planned as a supplement to a week-long series on Kids and Prejudice by National Public Radio, of which WBFO is an affiliate.

In our news coverage, we don't focus on crimes, fires and car accidents, but on politics, environmental issues and the economy. Because Western New York has been such an industrial area and is now shedding its "rustbelt" image, employment, business and new technology are often topical items.

Datelines Buffalo, N.Y.

ALSO, BECAUSE of industry, Western New Yorkers have many environmental concerns. In addition to Love Canal, which has been a headline story for 10 years, there is Forest Glen, or Love Canal II, plus many other toxic waste dumps that are beginning to cause problems for Buffalo-area residents.

Because of Buffalo's proximity to Canada we also focus on issues which we think will be important to Canadians. That would include the Great Lakes, acid rain and border taxes, as well as immigration policy.

We have a very small news staff: two full-time people including myself. We do have one part-time person and four interns, but they are new, unfamiliar with radio production and their hours for WBFO are limited because of classes. Part of my time is spent teaching them basic news production and how to write a radio news story.

Because they are still in the learning process, the bulk of the

workload falls on the full-timers.

A typical day begins at 5 a.m., reading and re-writing the newspaper, going through the wire, listening to news packages left by the staff and calling up newsmakers to get "sound bites" for the local news presentation. We do a 4 1/2-minute newscast each hour from 6 to 9 a.m., and a half-hour news magazine from 9 to 9:30.

AFTER 9:30, I begin a new day, running off to planned news events or work on the longer magazine pieces. If I'm lucky my day ends by 5 p.m.

My days are long and occasionally I work weekends to cover a story or to catch up on unfinished business.

As a NPR affiliate, WBFO has opened up many opportunities for me. We cover local news only, but when that local news has national interest or national impact, we do stories for NPR.

I've done stories on the scandals in city government, the shutdown of the transit system and the resettlement of Love Canal for NPR.



In addition to getting national exposure for my station and myself, my job has opened doors to other sources of income. Besides NPR, I've filed stories for NBC and The Christian Science Monitor.

The writer is a 1988 Columbia Journalism graduate.

**Don't keep it
to yourself . . .**

We'd like to hear from you. Send us your announcements, comments and story ideas.

Black Alumni Network Newsletter

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(609) 728-4062/4001

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Positions in Communications

The Department of Communications, Rider College, invites applications for three (3) tenure-track positions: one in journalism and two in speech communications at the assistant professor levels, beginning September 1, 1991. Ph.D. or near required. Application deadline is December 30, 1990.

Position 1: Assistant Professor of Journalism with teaching responsibility primarily in the news-editorial or public relations track. The department has an advanced IBM and Macintosh writing, graphics and desk top publishing laboratory for the journalism program.

Positions 2 and 3: Assistant Professor of Speech to teach in the speech track. Primary duties include teaching a newly designed speech course for business students. Other duties will include courses in areas of specialization and student advising.

Salaries for all three positions are negotiable.

Rider College, a multi-purpose, independent institution with 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students, especially values excellent teaching. The pleasant suburban campus is situated in the middle of the dynamically media-rich and commercial Northeast Corridor, an hour from New York City and 45 minutes from Philadelphia. The college is a close-knit community and provides a supportive environment for faculty.

Send letter of application, three letters of recommendation and transcripts to **Dr. Howard Schwartz, Chairman, Department of Communications, Rider College, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.**

Rider College is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/H.

Jobline

NBC News is looking for desk assistants, feed coordinators and producers for its 24-hour Affiliate Feed Service. Contact Bob Homer, NBC News, #310, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112 ... WHYY TV12 and 91 FM Philadelphia have internship opportunities for these programs: Fresh Air, Radio Times, 91FM News and Earth Talk.

Full-time students, send resume and cover letter indicating internship choice to Maureen Pilla, personnel associate, WHYY Inc., 150 N. Sixth Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19106 ... WDIV-TV, Detroit, is looking for a news producer. Send resume to WDIV, 550 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48231. ... *The Black Collegian Magazine* is looking for writers for feature assignments. Send queries and clips to Kuumba Kazi-Ferrouillet, managing editor, *Black Collegian Magazine*, 1040 S.

Broad Ave., New Orleans, La. 70105. ... *The Detroit News* is looking for a copy editor, reporter and finance reporter. Minimum three to

five years daily newspaper experience required. Send resume to Human Resources, *The Detroit News*, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48221.

Grants to journalists

The Dick Goldensohn Fund is accepting applications for 1991 grants to journalists working on innovative projects. The typical grant is about \$1,500.

To continue the spirit of the late reporter and editor Dick Goldensohn (a '80 J-school graduate), the Fund's goal is to foster undertakings that investigate abuses of the public trust, spotlight overlooked aspects of contemporary life, or promote social, political and economic justice.

Applications should include:

- A general description of the project, its approximate length and planned approach;
- Anticipated medium of publication; describe any progress toward the sale of the story, and explain why you wish to publish in this outlet and why the funds requested cannot be obtained from conventional sources such as publishers, broadcasters or employers.
- Planned date of completion;
- An itemized budget, including an explanation of

how you would use a grant smaller than the requested amount.

- Resume and samples of previously published work; note that samples cannot, under any circumstances be returned;
- Names of three references who can vouch for your ability to carry out the project;
- A \$5 application fee and stamped, self-addressed envelope;
- Your name, address, work and home phone numbers, and Social Security number. Mention how you heard of the Fund.

Send four (4) copies of the complete application to:

The Dick Goldensohn Fund

175 FIFTH AVE STE 2245
NEW YORK, NY 10010

Deadline for applications is Jan. 15, 1991. Notice of awards will be mailed in six to eight weeks.

Media's failings

Can't from front page

And several weeks before the forum at *McGraw-Hill* auditorium in Rockefeller Center, a labor management war erupted at the *Daily News* that threatens the existence of the newspaper.

Several panelists agreed that the city news organizations must regularly get out into the neighborhoods to cover the multiracial, multiethnic population.

Too many reporters, said *The New York Times'* Martin Gottlieb, J-'68, preferred to stay near city hall to hear the quips and barbs of former mayor Ed Koch (1978-90) and forgot to cover the city.

Covering a crisis

On Dec. 15 from 12 to 5 p.m., the Professional Development Committee of the NY Association of Black Journalists presents, "How to Cover the Fiscal Crisis." The program will

examine the impact of the state and national budget crisis on the New York-area economy, tips on covering the crisis and how to interpret the statistics. Felix Rohatyn is scheduled to participate.

The event at the United Negro College Fund, 500 E. 62 St., is free for NYABJ members, \$10 for guests.

Due to space limits,
B.A.N. People will appear next month.

WANTED

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Send letter of application, vita, samples of work as a journalist, syllabus of course in area of strongest expertise to: Betty Medsger, Chair, Journalism Department, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. Three references should send letters to the same address. Inquiries: (415) 338-2663

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 1991

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Heat

Con't from front page

in the studio with remote interviews from NPR bureaus and member stations with listener calls.

Other bureaucratic and philosophical tangles dogged HEAT as well. Its production by Murray Street Enterprise, an independent New York company outside NPR's Washington headquarters, led to promotional and contractual problems that persist to this day.

Only three magazines -- *Mother Jones*, *Uline Reader* and *Wigwag* -- carried advertisements for the show. And of the network's 377 stations, 40 made room for HEAT in their schedules.

Although the program was produced in the studios of WNYC radio in New York, that station didn't carry the program until October, its final month on the air.

But to listeners in many smaller NPR-member cities, HEAT offered something new and stimulating -- a range of ideas, voices and rhythms that couldn't be heard elsewhere.

Imagine any traditional public affairs program (including NPR's "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" talking to young African-American men from Teaneck, N.J. about racial unrest in their hometown, asking the police chief of a small Vermont town how he would respond to a similar situation in his jurisdiction, then

allowing the youths and the chief to talk to each other on the air.

The discussion acknowledged real tension over race, class, good intentions and law and order -- yet it allowed an honest, respectful and illuminating exchange to take place.

HEAT at its best, celebrated diversity without making a big deal of it. Guests included Gil Scott-Heron, Hugh Masekela and Toshi Reagon; Ismael Reed, Oscar Hijuelos and Wynton Marsalis; Paul Robeson Jr., Sapphire and the Urban Bushwomen; Byron Rushing and Maxine Waters; Taj Mahal, The Soul Stirrers and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, and dozens of cultural contributors of all colors whose names never make it into the Rolodexes of other talk shows.

Among listeners who shared eloquent letters, poems and phone messages in the program's final weeks (and who even mailed checks totaling \$62 for a closing night party), the consensus was that HEAT flickered out too soon.

ON THE night of the final broadcast, Oct. 26, a few dozen regular guests and other friends of the show gathered at WNYC to sip beer and say goodbye. They sat in a studio across from the hall from the action, watching Hockenberry deliver his signature essay at the top of the show, laughing as satirist Will Durst savaged the Bush veto of the Civil Rights Act of

1990, sighing as a prison inmate calling from a pay phone read a poem thanking the HEAT staff for "discovering" him and treating him like a human being rather than a statistic.

IT WAS a night of reflection on what the experiment had been about -- a theme Hockenberry addressed in one of his final monologues:

"We cannot passively look around at what is happening and say, very generally, 'This is the show: news'; 'this is the show: art'; 'this is the show: entertainment'. No, no. Our show is about one thing. It's about two hours long. Nothing more can you know about unless you listen. Nothing more we can know about it unless we do it."

The writer is a 1982 Columbia Journalism graduate.

Daily News

Con't from front page

journalists. Now in a crisis, it wanted a black journalists membership list.

The same newspaper three years ago lost a discrimination suit against four black journalists and was exposed as a place where crude racism and breaches of journalism ethics were allowed to fester.

NABJ was suckered. *Daily News* executives know how to find us. They've been coming to job fairs and other events lately.


The way I see it, they made their request very public to drag

minority journalists into a no-win position. The people who for a long time were rejected or scorned were now to be used as pawns.

I've been telling friends that this labor fight means the end is near for the *Daily News*.

I don't hold the utter contempt for the newspaper that a number of my African-American colleagues feel. My feelings are bitter-sweet.

The *Daily News* is such a gritty, hip icon of New York. I admired the blunt and witty headlines and tightly crafted articles.

It was probably the first newspaper I read. I vaguely remember when New York was an eight-newspaper town. But I clearly remember when I was seven years old and my mother would have me go to the corner store on Tompkins Avenue in Brooklyn and buy a *Daily News* with a nickel. 

The newspaper was something I so much wanted to identify with.

But it did not want to identify with people like me.

Until it got a little religion and sharp kick in butt in the late '80s, the *Daily News* ignored a metro area that was quickly changing its racial and cultural face -- and that's too bad.

Now a paper that seems to be an essential to New York could become history because it stubbornly refused to change with the times.

-- Wayne J. Dawkins

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